# Appendix N

# Public Meeting Summary Reports



# Final Meeting Report

US 281 Environmental Impact Statement Public Scoping Meeting #2

**Prepared for the Federal Highway Administration** 

San Antonio, Texas November 17, 2009 **APPENDIX E Master Comment Listing** 

#### Public Scoping Meeting #2 -- Master Comment Listing

The master comment listing below includes all comments received, in alphabetical order by commenter, as well as the corresponding reference number and response number. Each comment is presented verbatim as it was received in **Section 4.0**. Scanned images of each written comment are included in **Appendix F** and the court reporter transcript of verbal comments is included in **Appendix G**. All comment responses are included in **Section 5**.

Reference			
#	Name	Comment Received	Response #
2	Adelman, D.	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
121	Adelman, D.	Meeting Evaluation	16, 22
10	Anonymous	Comment Card	11
19	Anonymous	Comment Card	2, 4, 11
28	Anonymous	Comment Card	2
36	Anonymous	Comment Card	5
38	Anonymous	Comment Card	2, 6
47	Anonymous	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
53	Anonymous	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
55	Anonymous	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
83	Anonymous	Mail	1, 4, 16
91	Anonymous	Meeting Evaluation	1, 13
93	Anonymous	Meeting Evaluation	19
111	Anonymous	Meeting Evaluation	1, 4, 16
99	Barrera, Carol	Meeting Evaluation	4
34	Barrera, Gilbert	Comment Card	4
100	Barrera, Gilbert	Meeting Evaluation	4
73	Bauer, Walter	Email	2, 4
60	Benedict, Emily	Email	2, 4, 21
35	Berrera, Carol	Comment Card	4
74	Brite, Thomas	Email	4, 7
43	Byler, Lloyd	Comment Card	1
97	Byler, Lloyd	Meeting Evaluation	2, 4, 10
23	Chambers, Jackson	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
107	Chambers, Jackson	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
85	Cheatham, Cassandra	Website	4, 17
25	Coss, Cynthia V.	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
105	Coss, Cynthia V.	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
79	de Greef, Nico	Email	2, 4, 18, 15, 19
44	Delao, Caesar	Comment Card	2, 15
96	Dixon, Don	Meeting Evaluation	2, 4, 10
129	Dixon, Don	Court Reporter	4, 9, 16, 18, 21
46	Dixon, Don	Comment Card	4, 13, 5
45	Dixon, Don P.	Comment Card	4, 5, 10

Reference			
#	Name	Comment Received	Response #
32	Dixon, Paul	Comment Card	2
101	Dixon, Paul	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
89	Dodson, George	Website	4, 9, 14
57	Doucette, Richard E.	Email	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
14	Drewa, David A.	Comment Card	2
123	Farris, Pam	Court Reporter	4, 9, 11, 12
82	Fernandez, Jose L.	Fax	2, 4, 7
16	Fieseler, Hal	Comment Card	7
127	Fieseler, Hal	Verbally	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
5	Forster, Frosty	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
61	Galvan, Nicole	Email	2, 4, 21
49	Gay, Willis	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
84	Gebhart, Mike and Bev	Mail	Comment Noted and Considered
88	Goodro, Thomas	Website	4
7	Gren, Eric	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
52	Griffin, Cindy	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
94	Griffin, Cindy	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
77	Groomer, Georgina	Email	2, 13
86	Hall, Hollie	Website	1, 2
75	Hall, Les	Email	2
78	Hall, Terri	Email	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
67	Harren, Roylynn	Email	Comment Noted and Considered
87	Hartwig, Bruce	Website	4
20	Javer, David	Comment Card	2, 4
110	Javer, David	Meeting Evaluation	4, 9
58	Johnson, Steve	Email	1, 2, 4, 20
11	Juen, Byron	Comment Card	2
115	Juen, Byron	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
126	Juen, Byron	Court Reporter	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
65	Kayser, Jim	Email	22
62	Kennedy, B.	Email	2, 4, 11, 19
8	Kinchen, Kerry	Comment Card	2, 4, 9
117	Kinchen, Kerry	Meeting Evaluation	10, 16
42	Klein, Julie	Comment Card	13
33	Koch, Harris	Comment Card	2
24	Koch, J.E.	Comment Card	2
106	Koch, J.E.	Meeting Evaluation	2
21	Lamberth, Jimmy	Comment Card	2
109	Lamberth, Jimmy	Meeting Evaluation	4
22	Lamberth, Lou	Comment Card	1, 2, 4
108	Lamberth, Lou	Meeting Evaluation	13, 16
18	Land, Charles	Comment Card	13

Reference			
#	Name	Comment Received	Response #
64	Lewis, Phil	Email	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
6	Lindsey, Keith	Comment Card	8
118	Lindsey, Keith	Meeting Evaluation	4, 16
1	Loeffler, Craig S.	Comment Card	4
122	Loeffler, Craig S.	Meeting Evaluation	19
48	Manny, David A.	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
41	Mather, Rees	Comment Card	13
98	Mather, Rees	Meeting Evaluation	16
15	McLaughlin, Mac	Comment Card	2, 4
113	McLaughlin, Mac	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
29	Meuns, Jimmy	Comment Card	1, 2
103	Meuns, Jimmy	Meeting Evaluation	16
76	Napolitano, John	Email	2
80	Peace, Annalisa	Email	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
70	Pheasey, Chuck	Email	2, 4, 15 ,19
4	Phelps, Ken	Comment Card	8
119	Phelps, Ken	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
71	Pichichero, Steve	Email	2, 15
56	Pickett, Kurtis	Comment Card	2, 4
66	Preble, Don	Email	Specific Response, see Section 5.2
81	Rasco, Tom	Fax	2, 19
40	Resedenchen	Comment Card	2
90	Rodriguez, R.	Website	Comment Noted and Considered
12	Roos, Marita	Comment Card	10
39	Rutkowski, Paul	Comment Card	2
9	Sartor, Sudie	Comment Card	4, 7, 12
116	Sartor, Sudie	Meeting Evaluation	16
54	Seguin, Russell	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
92	Seguin, Russell	Meeting Evaluation	16
124	Seguin, Russell	Court Reporter	9, 4, 11, 21
128	Seguin, Russell	Court Reporter	2, 11, 13, 16, 19
3	Tedor, John	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
120	Tedor, John	Meeting Evaluation	1, 2, 4, 16
125	Tedor, John	Court Reporter	1, 4, 11, 13, 16
30	Terrill, Bob	Comment Card	2
102	Terrill, Bob	Meeting Evaluation	4, 3
68	Thomsen, K.	Email	2, 19
40	Throckmorton, Robert	Commont Coul	
13	W. Threekmarten Debert	Comment Card	2, 4
114	Throckmorton, Robert W.	Meeting Evaluation	2
17	Towsley, Joyce	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered

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Reference			
#	Name	Comment Received	Response #
112	Towsley, Joyce	Meeting Evaluation	4, 9
51	Towsley, Robert	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
95	Towsley, Robert	Meeting Evaluation	Comment Noted and Considered
27	Tremallo, Robin	Comment Card	2
104	Tremallo, Robin	Meeting Evaluation	2, 10
26	Uhl, Beverly J.	Comment Card	2, 10
50	Uhl, M.	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
59	Wardlaw, Peggy	Email	4, 15
69	Williams, T.J.	Email	Comment Noted and Considered
31	Wilson, Ewel D.	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
37	Xidas, D.	Comment Card	Comment Noted and Considered
63	Xidas, Demitra	Email	1, 2, 20
72	Young, Howard	Email	15

**APPENDIX F Written Public Comments and Meeting Evaluation Forms** 

**Agency Scoping Comments** 



#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

November 25, 2009



Leroy Alloway Director Community Development Alamo Regional Mobility Authority 1222 N. Main Avenue, Ste 1000 San Antonio, TX 78212

SUBJECT: Scoping Comments for US 281 (Loop 1604 to Borgfeld Rd) Environmental Impact

Statement

Dear Mr. Alloway:

In accordance with your letter dated November 4, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing the following comments for scoping the Proposed US 281 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EPA has identified potential areas of concern that should be addressed in the EIS, including the development of alternatives and mitigation. We have identified that the proposed project:

- 1. may be less than 1 mile from an area of designated critical habitat for a rare species
- 2. may have wetlands nearby or present
- 3. may overlay a sole source aquifer
- 4. may be within an ozone non-attainment area
- 5. may have water dischargers, air emission points, and hazardous waste generators nearby
- 6. may be within the 100 or 500 year floodplain
- 7. may be within 100 meters of a school
- 8. may have environmental justices concerns

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to aid you in the development of the EIS. If you have questions or wish to coordinate further, please contact Dr. Sharon L. Osowski, of my staff at <a href="mailto:osowski.sharon@epa.gov">osowski.sharon@epa.gov</a> or by phone at 214-665-7506.

Cathy Silnen

Cathy Gilmore

Chief, Office of Planning and

Coordination



cc: Mr. Salvador Deocampo, P. E., District Engineer, Texas Division, FHWA

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., Chairman Buddy Garcia, Commissioner Carlos Rubinstein, Commissioner Mark R. Vickery, P.G., Executive Director



### TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

December 2, 2009

Mr. Leroy Alloway Alamo Regional Mobility Authority 1222 N. Main Avenue, Suite 100 San Antonio, TX 78212

Re:

TCEQ Grant and Texas Review and Comment System (TRACS) #10078, City of San Antonio, Bexar County - Scoping Meeting for the US 281 EIS

Dear Mr. Alloway:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers following comments:

A review of the project for General Conformity impact in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code § 101.30 indicates that the proposed action is located in the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, which is currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. Therefore, General Conformity does not apply.

Although any demolition, construction, rehabilitation or repair project will produce dust and particulate emissions, these actions should pose no significant impact upon air quality standards. Any minimal dust and particulate emissions should be easily controlled by the construction contractors using standard dust mitigation techniques.

We look forward to reviewing environmental assessment documents as they become available.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Glenda Thorn at (512) 239-1980.

Sincerely,

Katherine Nelson

Assistant Division Director

Water Quality Planning Division

Katherene Nelson

**Comment Cards** 



#### COMMENT CARD

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Heavy Rail	Agree	□ Disagree
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Monorail	Ø Agree	☐ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	Agree	☐ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	√ Agree	☐ Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	☑ Agree	☐ Disagree
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#### COMMENT CARD

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Commuter Rail	☐ Agree		Disagree
Monorail	Agree		Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☐ Agree		Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☐ Agree		Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	☐ Agree		Disagree
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Address 2700 B Ramblewoon City	, State Zip San Anto	onio	,TX 78261



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Personal Rapid Transit	×	Agree	☐ Disagree
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Commuter Rail  Agree  Disagree  Monorail  Agree  Disagree  Automated Guideway Transit  Personal Rapid Transit  Disagree  Personal Rapid Transit  Disagree  New Parallel Corridor  If you "disagree" with any of the alternatives being eliminated, please tell us which one(s) and when the please let us know your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. Do the preliminary alternatives capture the range of alternatives that should be considered? Do the objectives define the type improvements that you would like to see? Do the alternatives that have been carried forward represent options you would like to see studied in more detail? Are there any other items you woulk us to be aware of as the process moves forward? (Please use additional sheets if needed.)  Eliminate all options but (Ank) 3, 10, and 11	alternatives below.  Heavy Rail	Agree	□ Diaggree
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Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Monorail	☐ Agree	☐ Disagree
Commuter Rail	☐ Agree	□ Disagree
Heavy Rail	△Agree	□ Disagree



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Please let us know your thoughts about the prelinflawed" and being recommended for elimination. alternatives below.	minary alternat Please check	ives that are "agree" or "o	conside disagree	red "fatally " for the
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Commuter Rail	/	Agree		Disagree
Monorail	/	Agree		Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	. 1	Agree		Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	/	Agree		Disagree
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Please let us know your thoughts about the pre- flawed" and being recommended for elimination alternatives below.	eliminary alternatives that are not	considered "fatally isagree" for the
Heavy Rail	Agree	☐ Disagree
Commuter Rail	Agree	☐ Disagree
Monorail	Agree	☐ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	Agree	☐ Disagree
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Heavy Rail	□ Agree	☐ Disagree
Commuter Rail	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Monorail	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☐ Agree	□ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree	☐ Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	☐ Agree	Disagree
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alternatives below.			
Heavy Rail	☑ Agree		Disagree
Commuter Rail	☑ Agree		Disagree
Monorail			Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☑ Agree		Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree		Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	☑ Agree		Disagree
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Written comments should be sent to Leroy Alloway, Director, Community Development, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, 1222 N. Main Avenue, Ste 1000, San Antonio, Texas 78212; you may also submit comments to the Alamo RMA by fax to 210-495-5403 or e-mail <a href="https://doi.org/li>
//doi.org/li>



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flawed" and being recommended for elimination alternatives below.		
Heavy Rail	☐ Agree	□ Disagree
Commuter Rail	☑ Agree	☐ Disagree
Monorail	Agree	☐ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☑ Agree	☐ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	Agree	☐ Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	Agree	☐ Disagree
Please let us know your thoughts, concerns, and capture the range of alternatives that should be improvements that you would like to see? Do to represent options you would like to see studied like us to be aware of as the process moves for	e considered? Do the object he alternatives that have be n more detail? Are there any	tives define the type of een carried forward other items you would
would like to see how grow		
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Automated Guideway Transit	☑ Agree ☑ Agree		Disagree Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree		Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	₫ Agree		Disagree
Please let us know your thoughts, concerns, and sugge capture the range of alternatives that should be consi	idered? Do the object	tives de	efine the type of
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Please let us know your thoughts about the prelimination flawed" and being recommended for elimination. Pleasternatives below.	ary alternatives that are ease check "agree" or "c	conside lisagree	red "fatally " for the
Heavy Rail	☑ Agree		Disagree
Commuter Rail	Agree		Disagree
Monorail	Agree		Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	Agree		Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	Agree		Disagree
New Parallel Corridor			Disagree
Please let us know your thoughts, concerns, and sug- capture the range of alternatives that should be con improvements that you would like to see? Do the al- represent options you would like to see studied in mo like us to be aware of as the process moves forward?	sidered? Do the object ternatives that have bore detail? Are there an	tives de een car v other i	efine the type of ried forward tems you would
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Name: DAVID A. DREWA Address: ZIYOG ENCING LOOKOUT City, S	1 1 4 4		Later Tree

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Please let us know your thoughts about the preliminary alternatives that are considered "fatally flawed" and being recommended for elimination. Please check "agree" or "disagree" for the alternatives below.

Heavy Rail		∖ Disagree
Commuter Rail	> Agree	Spisagree
Monorail	Agree	Disagree Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	Agree	Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	Agree	Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	Agree	Disagree
If you "disagree" with any of the alternatives be	eing eliminated, please tell us w	

Please let us know your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. Do the preliminary alternatives capture the range of alternatives that should be considered? Do the objectives define the type of improvements that you would like to see? Do the alternatives that have been carried forward represent options you would like to see studied in more detail? Are there any other items you would like us to be aware of as the process moves forward? (Please use additional sheets if needed.)

Name: Mac Me Laughlin

Address: 26211 Lookout Falls City, State Zip SAT 78260

Email: MAC MCLAUGHLING Hot mail. COM



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Please let us know your thoughts about the flawed" and being recommended for eliminal alternatives below.	preliminary alternatives that are dation. Please check "agree" or "di	conside sagree'	red "fatally " for the
Heavy Rail	☑ Agree		Disagree
Commuter Rail	☑Agree		Disagree
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Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree		Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	□ Agree		Disagree
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Name: HAL FIESELER Address: 4140 KENGER SAT. 7825 Email: Creekbottom@satz.RR.Co	9 City, State Zip		



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Please let us know your thoughts about the prelimination flawed" and being recommended for elimination. Pleasternatives below.	ary alternatives that are ease check "agree" or "o	considered "fatally disagree" for the
Heavy Rail	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Commuter Rail	Agree	□ Disagree
Monorail	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☑ Agree	☐ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	☐ Agree	Disagree
If you "disagree" with any of the alternatives being eli		which one(s) and why.
Please let us know your thoughts, concerns, and sug capture the range of alternatives that should be conimprovements that you would like to see? Do the all represent options you would like to see studied in molike us to be aware of as the process moves forward?  The extra Load adda seems convenience for formal seems.	nsidered? Do the object Iternatives that have bore detail? Are there an ? (Please use additiona	etives define the type of een carried forward by other items you would I sheets if needed.)
Name: Joyce Towsley Address: 2014 Saugrass Ridge City, S Email: SA towsley & GVTC.com		



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Please let us know your thoughts about the preliflawed" and being recommended for elimination. alternatives below.	minary alternat Please check	ives that are "agree" or "	considered "fatally disagree" for the
Heavy Rail	×	Agree	□ Disagree
Commuter Rail		Agree	Disagree
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Please let us know your the flawed" and being recommand alternatives below.	noughts about the preling nended for elimination.	ninary alternatives Please check "agr	that are c ee" or "dis	onsidered "fatal sagree" for the	ly
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Heavy Rail		Agree	☐ Disagree
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Automated Guideway Transit		Agree	☑ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit		Agree	Disagree
New Parallel Corridor		Agree	Disagree
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Heavy Rail	Agree	☐ Disagree
Commuter Rail	Agree	□ Disagree
Monorail	Agree	□ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	Agree	□ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	Agree	☐ Disagree
New Parallel Corridor	Agree	□ Disagree
If you "disagree" with any of the alternatives being entered to the form the LET YOU ALL THE WAY TO	IR DESTINATION. TI	HE RAILS DON'T
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Name: JIMMY LAMBERTH  Address: 12420 STYART RD. City,  Email: 17RJIM @ FLASH 46T.	State Zip GAN PAN	TONIO, TX 78263

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Please let us know your thoughts about the flawed" and being recommended for elimina alternatives below.	preliminary alternatives that tion. Please check "agree	at are considered "fatally " or "disagree" for the
Heavy Rail	Agree	☐ Disagree
Commuter Rail	⊠ Agree	□ Disagree
Monorail	⊠ Agree	☐ Disagree
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devel is in the details." 7	he political pro	eess must listen to
the people (the voters) as-	the details are	developed.
Name: Lou Lamberth		C19- 97-73
Address: 12420 STUART RD	City, State Zip San F	Intonio, Tx 78263
Email: Llamberth 301@gma	il.com	



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Heavy Rail	☐ Agree	Disagree
Commuter Rail	☐ Agree	Disagree
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New Parallel Corridor	Agree	Disagree
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Heavy Rail	│ □ Agree	Disagree
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Monorail	☐ Agree	⊠ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☐ Agree	☐ Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☐ Agree	□ Disagree
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Name: J.E. Koch		
Address 2700 (0 12 100/000)	, State Zip S , A . TX	0510

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Heavy Rail	Ø Agree	☐ Disagree
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Name: Cyvornia V-COSJ		
Address:	City, State Zip 78249	
Email: (coss@hntb.com		



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Please let us know your thoughts about the pre- flawed" and being recommended for elimination alternatives below.	eliminary alternative n. Please check "a	es that are conside agree" or "disagree	ered "fatally " for the
Heavy Rail		Agree 🗹	Disagree
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Name: Beverly J. Uhl			
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Please let us know your thoughts about the preli flawed" and being recommended for elimination. alternatives below.	minary alternatives that are of Please check "agree" or "di	conside sagree	red "fatally " for the
Heavy Rail	☑ Agree		Disagree
Commuter Rail	☐ Agree		Disagree
Monorail	□ Agree		Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	☐ Agree		Disagree
Personal Rapid Transit	☑ Agree		Disagree
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Name: Robin Tremallo Address: 18727 Redrock Creek c Email: vtremallo@ yahoo, com	ity, State Zip S A TX	783	59

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Please let us know your thoughts a flawed" and being recommended for alternatives below.	about the preliminary alternatives that are or elimination. Please check "agree" or "	considered "fatally disagree" for the
Heavy Rail	☑ Agree	□ Disagree
Commuter Rail	☐ Agree	Disagree
Monorail	Agree	□ Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit	Agree	□ Disagree
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New Parallel Corridor	☑ Agree	☐ Disagree
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Please let us know your thoughts about the p flawed" and being recommended for eliminational alternatives below.	reliminary alternatives that are co on. Please check "agree" or "disa	nside agree	ered "fatally " for the
Heavy Rail	☐ Agree		Disagree
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Please let us know your thoughts about the pre- flawed" and being recommended for eliminational ternatives below.	eliminary alternatives that are connumbers. Please check "agree" or "disage"	sidered "fatally gree" for the
Heavy Rail	☐ Agree	□ Disagree
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Commuter Rail	Agree		Disagree
Monorail	□∕Agree		Disagree
Automated Guideway Transit			Disagree
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New Parallel Corridor	☑ Agree		Disagree
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Name: PAUL DIXOR Address: 9165 N. PT City Email:	v, State Zip SA T	X 7	8266



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Please let us know your thoughts about the prelin flawed" and being recommended for elimination. alternatives below.	ninary alternatives that are Please check "agree" or "d	considered "fatally isagree" for the
Heavy Rail	Agree	☐ Disagree
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Heavy Rail	△Agree	□ Disagree
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Name: Carol Barrera OS 9	City, State Zip 78 2 S	1	isten to
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Heavy Rail	☐ Agree	☐ Disagree
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Spring Hill Event Center

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Written comments should be sent to Leroy Alloway, Director, Community Development, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, 1222 N. Main Avenue, Ste 1000, San Antonio, Texas 78212; you may also submit comments to the Alamo RMA by fax to 210-495-5403 or e-mail <a href="mailto:US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org">US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org</a>. All written comments received or postmarked by Monday, November 30, 2009, will be in the Public Scoping Meeting #2 official record and considered by the US 281 EIS team. Comments received after the deadline will become part of the record for next public meeting.

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**Comments submitted via Email** 

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# **COMMENT CARD**

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Comment Card
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Continuation Sheet – Comments by Richard Doucette November 29, 2009

- 1. If you "disagree" with any of the alternatives being eliminated, please tell us which one(s) and why.
  - 1. Disagree Commuter Rail: I believe commuter rail should be included in the alternatives for this project. Your briefing says that Commuter Rail should be eliminated because there is no existing rail line and that it is not compatible with corridor plans.
  - 2. It is true that there is no existing rail line. However there is an existing Union Pacific rail line from downtown north up along 281 until just before Airport Blvd. This particular rail segment is being developed for passenger rail service by the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District.
    - a. It is possible to use the existing line and build an additional line north from where the existing line diverges from 281. This would better connect this existing line to the airport.
    - b. Corridor plans should include all possible ways of moving commuters to and from the suburbs, especially those that do not require automobiles. The MPO should include commuter rail up the US 281 corridor from downtown to at least the county line as part of their overall plan to move people off the roads and onto alternative transportation.
    - c. By taking this option off the table, you could be skewing the results toward additional vehicle volumes. We need to plan to take cars off the road if at all possible, not add only automobile capacity.
  - 3. Disagree New Parallel Corridor. As the population swells north of 1604, there needs to be additional capacity.
    - a. Right now, Blanco is being widened to handle additional capacity, but there is only marginal north-south additional capacity being added east of 281 on Bulverde Road.
    - b. This area is underdeveloped at the moment and an additional corridor should be considered specifically Bulverde Road or another alternative not yet planned as the east side of 281 is developed.
    - c. By eliminating the alternative of an additional new parallel corridor where there is capacity to do so, you are skewing the data in favor of just expanding 281. This would make 281 expansion look like the only reasonable alternative, which is certainly NOT the case. Why not consider increasing the capacity of both Blanco Road and Bulverde Road?

#### 2. Additional Comments:

• The planned alternatives really do need to be included in a comprehensive plan for future development and traffic in San Antonio. I understand that the MPO has a master plan for our transportation needs. However, I believe that the current developers (residential and commercial) in north 281 corridor are building infrastructure FIRST and worrying about transportation capacity second. This needs to be a coordinated effort. New development in this area must be tied to the capacity of the transportation network to absorb the additional

loads and access requirements. This is not being done now. If one looks at the new shopping centers and housing already being developed along 281, it is obvious to even the most casual observer that we are pouring thousands of additional commuters and shoppers into a corridor that cannot handle the load during rush hours.

- This planning should use "Smart Transportation." As defined by PennDOT and NJDOT, "Smart Transportation recommends a new approach to roadway planning and design, in which transportation investments are tailored to the specific needs of each project. The different contexts-financial, community, land use, transportation, and environmental determine the design of the solution. The best transportation solution arises from a process in which a multi-disciplinary team, considering a wide range of solutions, works closely with the community. Inclusive of context-sensitive solutions (CSS), Smart Transportation also encompasses network connectivity, and access and corridor management. It will help both states and communities adapt to the new financial context of constrained resources."
- Transportation planning needs to include multi-modal alternatives. Your study does include several primary alternatives. The plan should not include only one of the alternatives mentioned, but a range of alternatives that *together* help reduce the bottleneck created by all traffic being funneled onto 281. In other words, the solution needs to be a mix of different alternatives that do the following:
  - 1. Plan for proper connectivity. Create different paths for people to flow to and from different destinations along the 281 corridor. For instance, commuters that need to go south of 1604 may use their vehicles on 281, take a form of rapid transit to their destination (fixed or non-fixed guideway) or other alternatives for local destinations.
  - 2. One alternative that needs to be included in this study is Ride Sharing. This is a little-used alternative that reduces the number of vehicles using a corridor by a factor equal to the number of extra passengers (above 1) that are sharing the vehicle. Mandatory or "encouraged" ride sharing could significantly reduce the vehicle load in this corridor.
  - 3. As noted below, we need to define and develop streets that meet the needs of the context in which people are traveling. I've seen street types defined this way:
    - a. Arterial Regional
    - b. Arterial Community
    - c. Collector Community
    - d. Collector Neighborhood
    - e. Local
  - 4. 281 is both a regional and community arterial road. As such, it serves two purposes. One, it provides a regional (National) highway from north to south Texas to and through San Antonio. Two, it provides a regional highway to transport people to/from their community destinations.
  - 5. We need to keep the US Highway 281 that serves as a regional arterial open and available to those who are transiting through San Antonio to another destination (to the coast, for example). Tolling should not be an option for these users, as the road serves as the regional National freeway to and from regional destinations.
  - 6. 281 is also a community arterial. But not everyone who is currently funneled onto 281 needs to be there. What is needed is a series of "alternate routes" or local streets to and from local and not-too-distant destinations. This would keep a lot of traffic off of the main artery. For instance, developing alternate back access to/from the shopping centers (especially on the same side of 281) such as Bulverde Road, Blanco Road and

- others would allow those needing to get to the stores, etc., to get there "the back way" and stay off of 281. There needs to be sufficient "back roads," and this needs to be part of the alternatives studied to eliminate congestion on 281.
- 7. Currently, most of the residential subdivisions have limited access or actually enter/exit only onto 281, which does not have access roads. This type "pod development" funnels drivers onto 281, causing additional congestion. Developing more "back road" paths to/from these areas would alleviate much of that congestion and keep folks off of 281. At the very least, access roads must be implemented all along 281 where vehicles now have access only directly onto 281.
- 8. Unfortunately, a lot of development has taken place without concurrent planned highway development and action. Planning for the future of the corridor should include provisions to add those features and provisions that have not been made up to this point. Band-Aiding the problem by simply fixing 281 without adding the additional transportation infrastructure will not really solve the problem. An access management plan should be in every alternative considered.
- 9. We need to take a more long-range look at the needs of the entire 281 corridor. We should not fix the current stretch of 281 in isolation. As I noted above, there is a lot of current development going on both in the area being studied and north of that. Unless we plan for how the entire 281 corridor is developed, there is a good possibility that we will "fix" the current problem only to have the same problem north of the newly developed roadway. Further, if we build a lot of capacity into the currently-studied stretch of 281, will this extra load cause backups when it funnels into the existing portion of 281 south of 1604? Or back up as people exit to take 1604 east and west? Or when it funnels into two lanes on 281 north of the expansion? This all needs to be planned accordingly. It is critical for any analysis of US 281 improvements to examine the congestion impacts on US 281, Loop 1604 and other arterial roadways outside of the immediate study area.
- 10. To sum up some of the above, in the local 281 corridor, it comes down to connectivity and access management. There needs to be a well thought out scheme to allow interconnections in the local area, to take the pressure off of making everyone funnel into 281.
- 11. There have been plans for many years to put overpasses (grade separated intersections option 8). This alternative will solve 90% of the congestion problem, at a cost far less than any tolled alternative. We, as taxpayers and drivers, have already paid for this type of project many times over. We should not have to pay for it again by tolling the existing (expanded) roadway. Let's get on with building this option, or something similar. If some of the other local interconnections cannot be made in the short run, I believe that option 10 would be a better alternative by keeping most of the local traffic on the access roads.
- 12. Speaking of overpasses, we should also discuss alternatives to stop lights at the intersections. One excellent alternative, highly touted by the Federal Highway Administration, is roundabouts. I understand that there are many good reasons for this, one of the principal ones being a significant reduction in intersection-related crashes (especially fatal ones). My own personal experience living in the United Kingdom for many years (where roundabouts are the norm) is that they are far superior to traffic lights and should be seriously considered during design of the overpasses. I understand that roundabouts are eligible for 100% federal funding due to their safety characteristics.

- 13. I also believe that adding HOV or HOT lanes (alternative 11) is not the answer. These lanes are usually reserved for "through traffic" which is not planning on exiting the highway until the HO lane ends. However, many of the current drivers backed up on 281 are, in fact, going to destinations along this area of 281. So providing the HOV/T lanes would only reduce some congestion for those going farther north or south.
- I very much believe that we, as taxpayers and drivers, have paid into the gas tax fund for a long time. We also pay our federal taxes, some of which are used to construct new national freeways. We deserve to "get what we paid for" and what we expect from local, state and national government. Our state leaders have both raided the transportation funds for other requirements and funneled funds into other projects (such as the Wurzbach Parkway) in such a way as to make the case for "we are out of money, we have emergency needs, and we can only fix it with tolled roads." As taxpayers, we will not stand for this. As the MPO meeting recently at the Alzafar Temple showed, the taxpayers in San Antonio to not want tolled roads. We especially do not want tolled roads tolled in perpetuity. This is morally unconscionable. There have to be other alternatives to tolls, and I believe there are.
- In conclusion. As part of your EIS study of alternatives, you also need to provide a range of alternatives that take the pressure off of 281 while fixing the capacity problem on 281. Your plan and your study focus on "fixing the 281 problem" in isolation from the other transportation planning practices that also need to be a part of the plan, especially the connectivity and access issues, which your plan does not include.

Richard E. Doucette 6410 Sienna Circle San Antonio, TX 78249 (210) 379-3647 (cell) rdoucette@satx.rr.com You replied on 11/30/2009 11:47 AM.

#### **US281EIS**

From:

Steve and Lee Johnson [steveleejohnson@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Mon 11/30/2009 7:02 AM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

Scoping meeting #2 comments

Attachments:

I have lived in Encino Park and commuted downtown every day for 13 years so I am familiar with the problems plaguing 281. Here are my comments:

- 1. The preliminary alternatives are fine. I prefer Grade separated intersections and Expand parallel corridors.
- 2. There is a flaw in the objectives: there is no mention of alternatives for funding. It appears that tolls are the implicit choice for funding. One objective is to "maximize the use of non-toll funds", but there is no mention of tolling. I oppose tolling for generating any funds above what it costs to expand 281. I resent being a cash cow for TXDOT projects all over the state. Tolls could significantly reduce property values in Encino Park because of the extra cost and inconvenience of getting in and out of Encino Rio, which would obviously affect me.
- 3. Reduce the size of the pdf files. Even with DSL, they are slow to download, and people with a dialup connection probably can't view them.

Sincerely,

Steve Johnson



Sent: Wed 11/25/2009 9:31 AM

# You forwarded this message on 11/25/2009 10:37 AM.

#### **US281EIS**

From:

Alamo RMA Community Relations

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

FW: 281 Freeway

**Attachments:** 

Leroy D. Alloway

Director, Community Development

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

From: Peggy Wardlaw [mailto:Peggy.Wardlaw@wardlawappraisal.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 9:30 PM To: Alamo RMA Community Relations

Subject: 281 Freeway

As a small business owner and a resident of Encino Park, I am Totally opposed to a toll road for the 281 expansion. I am in favor of the Superstreet concept.

Thanks,

Peggy

Peggy Wardlaw PE, RPA

16601 Blanco Rd #100

San Antonio, Tx, 78232

210-448-2000 Office

210-386-6601 Cell

peggy.wardlaw@wardlawappraisal.com

Sent: Wed 11/18/2009 1:37 PM



You replied on 11/19/2009 3:18 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From:

Emily Benedict [emily.benedict@gmail.com]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

Subject:

Highway 281

**Attachments:** 

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

With the rapid growth and development on 281, north of 1604, it is time for the roads to finally catch up. I believe the best solution would be to turn this section of road into a freeway (with no lights, just like it is south of 1604 and north of Borgfield). I think the idea of toll roads has pushed aside any other reasonable and more affordable solutions, such as overpasses. I don't think we even need all the money up front to begin construction. We can begin with just one overpass at a time as we accumulate the money to pay for more. The important thing is to stop delaying and get started on the solution. I would not even be opposed to an increase in the gas tax to pay for these improvements, as long as the money was not diverted to other projects.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Emily Benedict** 2111 Encino Breeze San Antonio, TX 78259

Sent: Wed 11/18/2009 9:48 AM

You replied on 11/19/2009 3:20 PM.

## **US281EIS**

From:

Alamo RMA Community Relations

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

FW: Please Add My Comments

**Attachments:** 

Leroy D. Alloway

Director, Community Development

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority

From: Nicole Galvan [mailto:nicolegalvan@satx.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 12:48 PM

To: Alamo RMA Community Relations **Subject:** Please Add My Comments

We moved into this community to provide a safe place for our families. We are already paying higher taxes and higher expenses just to live here. We are by no means wealthy. A toll would be the tax that nails this coffin shut. We would have no choice but to move as my husband commutes over 30 miles just to get to work.

The super street is a waste of time. It would seem that it is the RMA's intention is to frustrate its citizens into begging for the toll road option. We are not and never will beg for a toll road option. We will patiently wait for the overpasses if time is what you need. We have been sitting in traffic this long....we can wait a little longer. (We have lived here for over nine years)

We do not wish to see toll roads...under any circumstance. Understandably, the RMA is an appointed board....but if toll roads prevail, I will be voting against those that appointed this board. What is more is that those serving on this board will never receive our support if and when deciding to run for office themselves. The toll roads are not an acceptable option.

Nicole Galvan

#61

210-481-1613

1307 Pecan Station

San Antonio, Texas 78258

You replied on 11/19/2009 3:24 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From:

Kennedy, Becky [kennedyb@zachry.com]

Sent: Tue 11/17/2009 11:26 AM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

281 Traffic and Newsletter

**Attachments:** 

WHAT IS WRONG with you people?

Why do you keep having meetings about the traffic problems on 281 North? The population has told you to widen the road or build overpasses, why don't you just listen and stop having those meetings. I have lived here for 3.5 years in the Stone Oak area, and can not believe that San Antonio will not fix there traffic issues faster.

Stop having meetings about it and just fix it, PLEASE.

Thank you,

**B.Kennedy** 



Sent: Tue 11/17/2009 8:52 AM

You replied on 11/19/2009 3:25 PM.

US281EIS

From:

demitra Xidas [d\_xidas@hotmail.com]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

Subject:

**US281- Meeting Tonight** 

**Attachments:** 

I agree with the objectives of accommodating growth, functionality, safety and enhancing the quality of life...rather saving time which metamorphically speaking, saves out lives. However, I am much more concerned about the methodology - the means by which we will accomplish these objectives. I am adamantly against making 281 a toll toad. When I moved here, I had no idea that this would ever happen. It will make this area of town much less desirable and bring down the value of homes. And that in turn, reduces the tax base. I certainly would not have bought in this area, if there were toll roads and I had to pay to enter and exit my home to go food shopping.

If we are discussinmg the means by which we are accomplishing these goals, I will save my thoughts for the meeting tonight. I will want to speak and will need about 5 minutes, if there is a forum. Thank you, for giving us the opportunity to express out thoughts and ideas.

Windows 7: It works the way you want. Learn more.





Sent: Tue 11/17/2009 8:17 AM

11/19/2009 3:26 PM.

# US281EIS

From:

Lewis, Phil [Phil.Lewis@valero.com]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

Subject:

Toll comments

**Attachments:** 

I have not attended any of the community meetings but wanted to get a few comments in while I could

I lived in Dallas for over 30 years and spent quite a bit or work time in Houston before moving to SA 4 years ago. I understand very well the benefits and advantages of toll roads that those cities enjoy and we don't. Anyone who opposes it just doesn't understand it. If they had a chance to experience it, their attitude would change quickly. Everyone wins. If you want to pay the toll, you can do that and enjoy a quicker trip on better roads. If you don't want to pay the toll, you can do that too on additional lanes on better roads with less traffic since much of your previous congestion is over on the toll lanes. Everyone wins. No one loses.

My big concern now is the Super Street concept. I've seen that tried in a few places with poor results. Think logically for a minute. If you force additional traffic onto 281 that wasn't there before and doesn't want to be there and then force them to make turns that weren't made before, then you've just increased your problem and spent a lot of money doing it. Adding cars to your problem street will NEVER make it better.

I can tell you one quick fix that would cost nothing and might buy you a little time. Add 5 seconds to the north/south light sequences on 281 and the left turn signals at Evans. This would greatly improve the north/south flow which is where your problem is. The east/west flow has nowhere near the problem that north/south does and it should be the other way around. Allow the east/west traffic to stack up a little more and keep 281 moving better. Also, the Evans intersection congestion could be greatly improved with a couple of steps.

Lengthen the left turn lanes in both directions with additional hard pavement to get those cars out of the way of the north south traffic. There is room for extension in both directions

Put a crossover turn lane in front of HEB and Jack in the Box. This would allow a lot of the intersection traffic to exit the highway at other points. Much of the northbound left turn traffic at Evans is trying to get to the HEB center. They could go thru the light and turn left at HEB. Much of the southbound traffic is trying to turn left to get to the Spectrum, Arby's, Whataburger, etc. or they are coming out of HEB trying to go northbound. This traffic could turn left before the Evans intersection. The resulting reduction of congestion at the Evans intersection would be huge.

All these suggestions would have minimal or no cost, would be quickly done, and would have an immediate impact. That would then give you time to come up with the proper long term solution.

One last comment, I can assure you that a huge majority of the population favors the tollway. For some reason, only the dissidents like to come to meetings and protest. I guess that's what makes them dissidents. If it wasn't the tollway, it would be some other issue being protested.

Phil Lewis

#64

210-748-0100

phillewis@gvtc.com

2630 Starlight Ct

San Antonio 78261

You replied on 11/19/2009 3:27 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From:

Jim Kayser [jkayser@satx.rr.com]

Sent: Mon 11/16/2009 10:28 PM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

Public Scoping Meeting #2, Attention: Leroy Alloway, Director, Community Development

**Attachments:** 

Mr. Alloway:

In response to the mailing we received regarding Hwy 281 Alternatives: after careful consideration of the options presented, no other options/alternatives come to mind.

However, there is one clear objection that should be addressed: public safety is jeopardized when there are bicylists on a highly congested Hwy such as 281.

There is a need for pedestrians to have somewhere safe to gather in the event of an accident. Therefore, sidewalks are desireable.

We believe that the purposes/objectives as listed define the type of improvements we would like to see in US 281 corridor.

Alternatives represented in flowchart appear to be all encompassing. Please study in detail.

Residents of The Bluffs @ Lookout Canyon, James M. & Diana E. Kayser



### You replied on 11/19/2009 3:28 PM.

#### **US281EIS**

From:

Don Preble [don.preble@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Mon 11/16/2009 6:31 PM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

epmgr@sbcglobal.net

Subject:

US 281

**Attachments:** 

We live in Encino Park and every day we have to plan our comings and goings to avoid the backups either to get out of Encino Park or return. We see nothing in any of the plans offered so far that will make it safe for us to exit our neighborhood at any time of the day.

The once premier subdivision and its safety has been ignored by all the planners

We are opposed to the toll road proposal even though, as we are reminded by those on boards who support it, that we can use the 'free' access road. That is not the point! We are tired of being told that we don't understand the issues that they say are too complex and ever changing for those not constantly involved to understand. Excuse us, but if that is true, them we have no one to blame, but the elected officials who made it that way and those appointed to boards who act for their own selfinterest and not the interests of those who live in the area and are impacted.

We hope the EIS will seriously listen to the residents of the affected subdivisions and not treat us like a nuisance. Any meeting we have been to so far appears to be more for show than to take us seriously.

Donald and Preble 19603 Encino Glen 78259



Tyou replied on 11/16/2009 12:06 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From: ROYLYNN HARREN [rahrah50@satx.rr.com] Sent: Sun 11/15/2009 3:23 PM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject: 281 **Attachments:** 

I will back whatever you do with 281 as long as it improves the traffic. San Antonio should be ashamed of themselves for the traffic disaster on 281. The building permits were given out for 1000's of new homes with no thought to how the traffic would be handled. The new HEB was built in an already congested area. For those of us who must use 281, we are trapped by traffic. I live 5.5 miles from 1604 and many mornings, traffic is backed up past my house and I can expect a drive of 45 minutes just to get to 1604. I no longer spend my dollars at the stores along 281 because of the traffic. I would have been the first in line for the sticker for my car to use the toll road!!!! Please not another study and more delays. While I would not look forward to the construction zone, at least something would be happening to improve the traffic and we could see that something is being done. It's time for some action!!!!

Thanks for listening...

Roylynn Harren



Sent: Sun 11/15/2009 9:04 AM

11/16/2009 12:05 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From: K Thomsen [redhead.lunchlady@gmail.com]

To: US281EIS

Cc:

Subject: comments for 17 Nov meeting

**Attachments:** 

Alamo RMA,

Thank you for the newsletters and updates on 281 progress. I've lived in San Antonio four times since 1992, due to military moves. When we first did our research and moved north of 281 in 2006, we knew of the potential growth and construction, and expected a great improvement in the road system. Other major metropolitan areas I've lived had growth too...but with significantly faster action on road and intersection improvements. In fact, public transportation was a great alternative in Maryland, Minnesota, Georgia, Colorado, and Illinois - all places I've lived in the past 17 years.

I am terrible disappointed and angry that San Antonio is behind the times in all aspects of public transportation. The drive down 281 from Bulverde Village to 1604 can take over 30 minutes to drive a the 7 miles. I could ride my bike faster than that....but would be terrified for my life by so many drivers' lack of basic driving skills: lack of driver courtesy, no turn signals, multiple lane changes, etc. If a train or bus alternative was available to take me to work, I certainly would use that option...but I would have to walk over a mile in the heat, rain, etc if I took a bus that even came close to Fort Sam.

All I can say....I can't wait until my tour is over and move away from San Antonio. I love my home, I love my neighborhood, and I realize lots and lots of people love it here. I can't stand the heat, I can't stand the drivers, and I can't stand the lack of public transportation and neglect to take action on the infrastructure north of 281. The shops, construction, and neighborhood building is nothing new....It's been a long time coming folks....why is it taking soooooo long to do something about the roads? Other cities seem to manage the process and address the issues with some type of action. Something, anything....do SOMETHING! I could go on and on....but I'll keep the cursing to myself.

Kim and Patrick Thomsen, Bulverde Village.

Sent: Fri 11/13/2009 2:40 PM

You replied on 11/13/2009 3:06 PM.

US281EIS

From: T Williams [twilliams@swbell.net]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

Subject: Comment on 281

**Attachments:** 

In the short time that I've lived here it seems obvious to me that San Antonio lacks the City Planning leadership that is needed to keep the current traffic load moving, much less the future load. We have major intersections that are managed with stop signs, mixmasters that have cross over entrance and exits, a city sectioned and divided by enclosed communities with no through traffic relief and forever ongoing discussion about doing something about 281. Want a suggestion? Build brides and widen the road. Now send me the salary you give to the planners.

TJ Williams

You replied on 11/13/2009 3:05 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From: Charles Pheasey [pheasey@sbcglobal.net] Sent: Fri 11/13/2009 12:16 PM

To:

Cc:

**Subject:** 281 project suggestions

US281EIS

**Attachments:** 

First, I live in the 281 North corridor, not in southside or Austin or Washington, DC. Second, the continual environmental studies is a waste of tax dollars - how many do you need - six, 10 or 20? Third, forget that "super highway" turn lanes and turnaround plan - it will not eliminate congestion as long as traffic lights persist. So what to do? Eliminate all traffic lights, build overpasses at Evans and Stone Oak, and use those turnarounds at Overlook, Marshall and Encino Rio. This will eliminate car and truck pollution, reduce traffic on north-south routes like Bulverde and Stone Oak. This makes the most sense - and NO TOLLS!!!!!!!!!!

However, since the decision lies with southsiders and Austin liberals, we'll face years of environmental studies and nothing will change except the cost will continue to increase each year. Listen to the people most affected! Stop the overkill and dominance of the leftist EPA! And, NO TOLLS!!!!!!!!

You want to spend millions on a rail system which is another liberal idea - "got the money, got to spend it." This would be so easy if you just got past the BS of the EPA.

Thank you giving me the opportunity to communicate my views.

Chuck Pheasey 1106 Morning Spring San Antonio, TX 78260

**Sent:** Fri 11/13/2009 12:14 PM

11/13/2009 3:04 PM.

#### **US281EIS**

From:

Steve Pichichero [steve@showtechnology.com]

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

FW: 281 Mobility Issues

Attachments:

From: Steve Pichichero

**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2009 12:01 PM

Subject: 281 Mobility Issues

US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org

Dear Dr. Thornton,

Thank you for your direct mail piece regarding the 281 corridor traffic issues.

We are baffled and greatly disappointed that we are even involved in a discussion about these issues. It is completely unacceptable, and unfathomable for any citizen to believe that this kind of problem in a modern community should exist.

The whole process is haphazard and backwards to me. Areas of growth should be selected, and basic traffic patterns should be the first thing analyzed, planned for, and installed before the permits for developments are even accepted. This creates so many positive factors in the community and it is bizarre that we have not adopted these policies a long time ago. Why not get that passed as a city ordinance immediately so we stop this madness for the future.

The benefits for planned growth to name a few would be:

Much increased value and appreciation in current homes

Less stress on our resources i.e. water, sewer, power, trash,

Massive influx of home improvement contracts No traffic issues due to a real plan of maximum growth

**Budgetary preparation** 

Happy citizens

Low stress for city planners

That being said what we need is a professional solution to the traffic and roads problems. I believe we should go find and hire the right people to handle the process.

In the meantime quick fixes should be the goal. Overpasses and more lanes on 1604 and 281 are a must.

Just my two cents.

Best regards,

Steve Pichichero / Show Technology Phone: (210) 408-0998 Fax: (210) 408-0999 steve@showtechnology.com www.showtechnology.com "Building a Better Home Show"



Building a Better Home Show

You replied on 11/13/2009 10:15 AM.

US281EIS

From:

Howard Young [howardly13@gmail.com]

Sent: Tue 11/10/2009 8:08 PM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

281/1604

**Attachments:** 

I thought that we were receiving stimulus money to construct 1/2 of the interchange.

When will construction start?

Thank you

howard

Sent: Thu 11/12/2009 10:13 PM



The sender of this message has requested a read receipt. Click here to send a receipt.

#### **US281EIS**

From:

Walter Bauer [whbauer@sbcglobal.net]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

'Walter Bauer' 281/1604

Subject: **Attachments:** 

Greetings,

This is what should happen with 281

- 1. Install overpasses at Encino Rio, Evans and other intersections going North to the Comal Co/Bexar county line
- Build access roads on the North and South bound sides
- 3. Only Free Lanes We already paid for this highway with our taxes
  - a. NO TOLL ROADS

You replied on 11/13/2009 10:05 AM.

**US281EIS** 

From:

Thomas Brite [tombrite1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thu 11/12/2009 7:21 PM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

US 281

**Attachments:** 

I just received the mailing from the Alamo RMA in today's mail.

I do not understand why the Alamo RMA DOES NOT understand that the people of Bexar County do not want toll roads. Oh, maybe I do. All of the paid staff at the RMA believe themselves above all the common people who have to drive this road everyday. Why is the Alamo RMA afraid and shaking to let the people of Bexar County vote on this toll? Probably because it would be the biggest lopsided vote in the history of democracy!

I am not a member of TURF or anything having to do with Terri Hall, but just a simple lawyer who drives 281 most every day. (Yes, I was smart enough to make it through law school.) The only people that I know that are in favor of toll roads are: 1. those paid to support it; 2. those who will make money off the construction of it; and 3. lap dogs to Rick Perry. Nobody else!

No matter how hard you try, the citizens will not allow toll roads to be built. End of story.

Tom Brite 210.365.6743

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You replied on 11/13/2009 10:00 AM.

Sent: Thu 11/12/2009 3:00 PM

# US281EIS

From:

Les Hall [les-hall@sbcglobal.net]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

Subject:

281

**Attachments:** 

Just build 3 overpasses on Encino Rio, Evans & Stone Oak.

A very unhappy with Alamo RMA taxpayer.

Les Hall

11/13/2009 10:10 AM.

US281EIS

From:

John Napolitano [patn795@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Mon 11/9/2009 3:29 PM

To:

US281EIS

Cc:

Subject:

**US 281 Congestion** 

**Attachments:** 

To Whom It May Concern:

QUIT SCREWING AROUND AND BUILD THE OVERPASSES.....ARE YOU PEOPLE IDIOTS??? WHY ARE YOU GOING AGAINST THE WISHES OF 90% OF NE SAN ANTONIO'S POPULATION WITH THIS STUPID, GREEDY TOLL ROAD BUSINESS??

I AM TOTALLY ASHAMED OF MR. THORNTON AND BECTEL...OR WHATEVER HER NAME IS...FOR SIDING WITH THE ENEMY IN THIS MESS...THE ENEMY BEING WHOEVER IT IS IN AUSTIN PUSHING TOLL ROADS!!! THORNTON, YOU WERE NOT A VERY GOOD MAYOR AND YOU ARE EVEN A WORSE CHAIRMAN OF THIS TERRIBLE ALAMO RMA GROUP!!

Pat Jones

US281EIS

From:

Leigh-Ann Fabianke [leighann@smithcollaboration.com]

Sent: Mon 11/9/2009 8:14 AM

To:

Cc:

Subject:

FW: US281 EIS CAC Meeting#2

US281EIS

**Attachments:** 

From: Robertson, Jim [mailto:Jim.Robertson@jacobs.com]

Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 8:15 AM

**To:** georgina groomer

**Cc:** Ximenes & Associates; MariAna Jimenez **Subject:** RE: US281 EIS CAC Meeting#2

From: MariAna Jimenez [mailto:mjimenez@swbell.net]

Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 9:07 AM

To: georgina groomer

Cc: Ximenes & Associates; Leigh-Ann Fabianke; Bruck, Tricia; Sonia Jimenez; Robertson, Jim

Subject: Re: US281 EIS CAC Meeting#2

Importance: High

Dear Ms. Groomer,

Thank you for your concerns. I am CC' Jim Robertson on this email so he can reply to you directly.

Sincerely,

MariAna Jimenez

Ximenes & Associates, Inc.

421 Sixth Street, #1 San Antonio, TX 78215 (210)354-2925 (210)354-2964-fax

On 11/5/09 8:23 AM, "georgina groomer" <ggroomer1@satx.rr.com> wrote:

Hi MariAna,

Last night meeting was interesting. My questions is how can we grade options without having a better idea about the projects? It does not make sense to me not understanding in detail the options as well as cost and time frame involved for each. What is wrong with just putting overpasses and getting the time frame and cost on that? It seems the majority of people want this and I am not understanding why this is not addressed. Apparently, TxDot wants us to look at these others but I cannot make a better judgement without more details. If it were my business and money I was spending, I would like to know I more details. Do you really want intelligent feedback? I don't get it.. Sincerely, Gina Groomer-Barbera

On Oct 8, 2009, at 4:36 PM, MariAna Jimenez wrote:

Dear CAC member,

The next meeting of the US 281 EIS Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is tentatively scheduled for November 4, 2009. It will be at the Methodist Stone Oak Hospital off of 281 North at 1139 E.Sonterra. It will be held in the conference room #1 and #2 from 6:00-8p.m. There will be a "make-up session" from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. for those who missed the first meeting.

Please let me know if you will not be able to attend. If you have any questions or need the information distributed at the last CAC meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me. The agenda and meeting notes will be coming to you soon.

Thank You,

MariAna Jimenez Ximenes & Associates, Inc. 421 Sixth Street, #1 San Antonio, TX 78215 (210)354-2925 (210)354-2964-fax



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# 78

Leigh-Ann,

Can you tell us what the deadline is for including comments and can we still get this in?

Thanks!

Heather Ramon-Ayala JACOBS Director of External Relations San Antonio 210.494.0088

From: Terri Hall

To: Ramon-Ayala, Heather A. Sent: Mon Nov 02 21:42:32 2009

Subject: 281 EIS

I can't remember when the deadline for comments on the scoping of the 281 EIS are due. Would you be sure this makes it into the record?

The purpose and need of this project is primarily congestion relief. Currently there are a series of stop lights that impede the flow of traffic. US 281 is a divided highway that needs to be upgraded to a controlled access highway. The gas tax funds to do the first 3 miles of improvements have been available since 2003, and the remaining funds (\$100 million total estimated cost per TxDOT documents for let dates of 2003 & 2004) to complete the improvements to the county line were available by 2006. The Governor, Texas Legislature, and MPO decided to toll existing freeways in 2003, so the overpasses and improvements promised in NEPA hearings in 2001 have yet to be installed. Overpasses will solve the problem.

The RMA can only keep its doors open if it builds toll roads. It has no other steady source of revenue. Its mission is to toll the entire northside and create a toll system or network as a means of generating revenue to build other segments or roadways, not relieving traffic congestion.

In fact, toll lanes aren't viable or won't be able to stay financially solvent unless there is congestion on the surrounding free lanes, thereby ensuring poor air quality due to idling vehicles stuck on frontage road permanently, for those that cannot afford the tolls (since the majority of drivers will not be able to avail themselves of the new improvements under a tolled scenario). The toll viability studies already done for 281 show it is not toll viable (meaning not enough projected traffic to pay for the cost of construction, operation, and maintenance of the toll road).

The most recent 281 toll viability study was criticized by the State Auditor for not taking into account fuel prices in traffic forecasts. The RMA also added 20% growth to the water development board's already aggressive growth estimates, which is unsustainable. The 281 toll project needs massive public subsidies, so commuters will have to pay triple taxes just to drive on a freeway they drive on today toll-free (281 is a gas tax funded public freeway and we'll continue to pay gas taxes, public money will be used to subsidize the construction cost of the toll road, then a third tax, a toll tax to drive on it). Non-compete agreements in toll contracts penalize or prohibit expansion of free routes surrounding the toll lanes and unnecessarily ties-up our future for 30-50 years. The RMA claims that TxDOT, the city, and county can still build and expand free roads, but those entities will not do anything that would put the toll road bonds in jeopardy of default, so the non-competes will effectively bring expansion of surrounding free roads to a grinding halt.

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The RMA has NEVER justified how the \$100 million original plan for 281 got to the enormous \$475 million toll road price tag or \$1.3 billion with interest (except perhaps the fact that we've done away with competitive bidding and threw out low-bid mandates using contracts called design-build).

Nor has the RMA explained how its going to "leverage" Texas Mobility Funds (TMF) funds in \$27 million increments over 20 years to get the money they need in one lump sum to build the toll road. The RMA has already disclosed it does not plan for the toll to ever come off the road, which makes this a permanent new tax to access an existing freeway already built and paid for.

The RMA's toll road proposal in the previous Environmental Assessment for 281 violates Senator Hutchison's amendment prohibiting imposing tolls on existing federally funded highways. Every single main lane will be tolled, with frontage roads as the only non-toll lanes. Frontage roads are not an acceptable replacement for highway lanes. The footprint of the project has to be widened due to a state law that prohibited converting free roads to toll roads unless the same number of lanes remain after imposing tolls. Considering this project traverses the sensitive Edwards Aquifer, unnecessary lanes ought not to be built under any circumstances. The toll road requires 200,000 cars a day in the out years in order to stay solvent -- more than DOUBLE the cars that take it now. This is not only unsustainable with only one added expressway lane, it poses environmental threats due to the dependence upon an ever increasing number of vehicles per day in order to meet debt service requirements for a toll road. Such a plan also runs afoul of the MPO's own long range plan that states its mission is to have an "environmentally-friendly," "affordable" transportation system.

The impacts of tolling are severe economically, environmentally, and socially, whereas a non-toll fix can be less invasive, actually solve congestion, and not inflict economic harm to businesses, residents, and commuters with new taxes to get to and from work, shopping, hospitals, school, the airport, or their own homes. The toll roads also bring with it a massive public debt that San Antonians cannot afford to repay. It will also necessitate huge and ever-increasing debt service payments that will eat-up all the money for free roads in our region and will create the need for higher tolls and ever increasing public subsidies to cover the debt service as it has in Austin and DFW.

Toll roads also pose safety problems as emergency service vehicles cannot easily access the toll lanes due to cement barriers and the extremely limited access to them. Accidents cannot be cleared as quickly nor is there the same amount of room on shoulders or other stretches of right of way for people to swerve and avoid accidents. Because toll roads create permanent diversion of traffic (cut-through traffic) to neighborhood or surrounding streets from those avoiding paying the tolls, tolling makes surrounding free roads less safe as high speed thru traffic competes with local traffic. This is supported by data from an Ohio toll road.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison read these comments into the congressional record May 10, 2005:

"Tolling existing highways will also increase the number of drivers on the free roads, resulting in greater congestion

and more accidents. Studies show that drivers will choose to bypass the tolls by driving on local, small roads. We also know that tolls on existing interstates will produce substantial diversion of truck traffic to other roads, and our rural roads are not equipped to handle significant truck traffic. In Ohio, traffic tripled on US–20 after toll increases on the Ohio Turnpike. Unfortunately, fatal accidents on US–

20 are now 17 times more common than those on the turnpike. In response, Ohio's Department of Transportation decided to lower the tolls, even though the action did reduce the revenues for the State.

478 py 3

A recent study predicted that a 25-cent-per-mile toll on an interstate would cause nearly half the trucks to divert to other routes. This is an understandable economic decision for trucking companies considering that truckers' profit margins average 2 to 4 cents per mile and the rising price of gasoline has already affected profitability. Technology already exists to help truckers and other drivers evade tolls in a cost-effective manner. It does not make sense to invest in tolls that people will not pay. Tolling interstates would reduce the safety of nearby local roads, degrade the quality of life in neighboring areas, and hurt the economy. Eighty percent of the Nation's goods travel by truck, and they will travel more slowly and expensively if tolls are imposed on interstates. The Federal Government collects taxes to fund the Federal interstate highway system. The States should not have the right to come in and impose another tax via a toll."

Senator Hutchison's comments apply equally to imposing tolls on state highways that were also built with federal funds.

The RMA must meet its legal obligations to coordinate with local units of government throughout this process, and it must consider ALL alternatives, including non-toll expansion of the existing highway. It also violates NEPA to keep vital financial information like toll viability studies secret from the public. The state law the RMA cites does not comport with the requirements of NEPA. Only by the RMA's delay in asking for an Attorney General opinion has the public been able to access the latest 281 toll viability study. The public cannot properly weigh alternatives and give meaningful input on the various alternatives without being able to analyze the viability of an alternative.

- Terri
Terri Hall
Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom
www.TexasTURF.org

"Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men." - John Adams

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- 7	Ter	ri		

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Terri Hall

- - 1

Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom

www.TexasTURF.org

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Sent: Sun 10/4/2009 8:07 PM

You replied on 10/8/2009 2:26 PM.

**US281EIS** 

From:

Nico de Greef [degreefnico@yahoo.com]

US281EIS

To: Cc:

Subject:

281 EIS Comments and Meeting Date

**Attachments:** 

I checked the posted info on the website, but did not see a date for the next public meeting next month - please advise so I can schedule my time. Thanks.

Also wanted to submit below 8 comments for the EIS record and consideration:

- (1) It is high time to resolve this traffic congestion problem for which planning was started over 20 years ago. Do we really need to wait another 3 years to complete the EIS to then start construction (if there are funds)?
- (2) All the excuses about insufficient funds are bogus. The North Central area of San Antonio has grown more than most areas in Texas, taxes have been collected and continue to be collected from all these new homeowners and from additional gas purchases, and in recent years funding (\$45M) was assigned, but no results! Enough excuses about changes in TX DoT decisions - these decisions could be overturned, just like they were made.
- (3) If this road is tolled, it would be the first in San Antonio and Bexar county. Why this area only and not other areas? Why would the home owners in this area be singled out to toll a Government-owned main artery into town, when other roads are not tolled? People purchased their homes at a time when there were no tolls.
- (4) The law is clear that one cannot toll public property. Using this publicly-owned artery with its right of ways to squeeze or diplace the original road and add a toll road is illegal. If a new toll road is to be added, then do it along another right-of-way.
- (5) Consider constructing overpasses for the E-W intersecting roads, which have less lanes, rather than N-S 281 with 6+ lanes. For example, Evans road overpass only needs 4 lanes, so the cost of a new overpass for 4 lanes is less than one for 6 lanes. There are other simple and obvious ways (such as the Super Street concept) to lower the cost of the project.
- (6) I didn't see much about the 281/1604 interchange project. Where can I find it and when will construction start? How will it impact traffic flow?
- (7) Why isn't the widening of Bulverde Road considered in this plan? It is overcrowded and needs an improved interchange at Evans Road and 1604 Loop. Since it runs parallel to 281, its traffic flow greatly affects 281.
- (8) It is also time to add lanes to 1604. When will that happen and will it be tolled?

Look forward to receiving a reply to this email and attending the next public meeting.

Nico de Greef Civil Engineer





Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas
Austin Regional Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Boerne Together
Cibolo Nature Center
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Environmental Stewardship
Committees of the Episcopal Church of
Reconciliation & Episcopal Diocese of

Environment Texas

West Texas

First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio

Friends of Canyon Lake

Fuerza Unida

Government Canyon Natural History Association

Hays Community Action Network

Helotes Heritage Association Helotes Nature Center

Hill Country Planning Association

Guardians of Lick Creek

Kendall County Well Owners Association

Kinney County Ground Zero

Medina County Environmental Action Association

Northwest Interstate Coalition of Neighborhoods

OST 100

Preserve Castroville

Preserve Lake Dunlop Association

Preserve Our Water-Blanco County

San Antonio Audubon Society

San Antonio Conservation Society

San Geronimo Valley Alliance

San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance

San Marcos River Foundation

Santuario Sisterfarm

Save Barton Creek Association

Save Our Springs Alliance

Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance

Securing a Future Environment

Sisters of the Divine Providence

Smart Growth San Antonio

**SEED Coalition** 

Texas Water Alliance

West Texas Springs Alliance

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

PO Box 15618 San Antonio, Texas 78212 (210) 320-6294 www.AquiferAlliance.org November 30, 2009

To: US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org

Re: Comments on US 281 EIS issues

Dear Alamo RMA:

On behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), please accept the following brief comments regarding preliminary alternatives and other issues concerning the US 281 EIS process.

## A Single, Comprehensive EIS for US 281/Loop 1604

As we have commented in the 1604 EIS process (and as has been argued in an ongoing lawsuit) we would again urge the lead agencies to prepare a single, comprehensive EIS for US 281/Loop 1604 instead of separate EISs for US 281 and Loop 1604. The current approach of separate EISs is duplicative, confusing, wasteful, and simply not warranted in light of the common financing, environmental constraints, timing, and coordination of 281 and 1604. For many years now, US 281/Loop 1604 has been planned as one project.

There is no principled reason for separating the study of 281 and 1604, and such an arbitrary division of what is one project will likely result in a deficient analysis of alternatives, under-evaluation of impacts (especially cumulative), and unsatisfactory mitigation. Now more than ever, it is essential that government entities take a big-picture look at transportation solutions that will work within the environmental constraints of the northern San Antonio / northern Bexar County region.

Analyzing the US 281/Loop 1604 project in one EIS is critically important for consideration of regional, sustainable, long-term transportation solutions that accord with the environmentally-sensitive context of the area—a context that includes the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone, extensive habitat for the endangered Golden-Cheeked Warbler, and extensive habitat for endangered Bexar County karst invertebrates. By focusing on the 281 corridor in isolation, or limiting the consideration of alternatives to primarily roadway expansion projects on US 281 (as discussed below), the Alamo RMA cannot satisfy NEPA.

## Purpose and Need Too Narrow in Several Respects

Under NEPA, it is critical that an agency avoid formulating a purpose and need statement that is so narrow as to "define competing 'reasonable alternatives' out of consideration (and even out of existence)", Simmons v. U.S Army Corps of Engineers, 120 F.3rd 664 (7th Cir. 1997). As the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit explained in another case, "if the purposes and needs of the Project were so narrowly construed as to mandate the extra capacity only at 11400 South, we would conclude that such a narrow definition would be contrary to the mandates of NEPA." Davis v. Mineta, 302 F.3d 1104, 1119-20 (10th Cir. 2002).

Several of the Alamo RMA's suggested objectives accompanying the proposed purpose are so narrow as to mandate only one type of alternative: expansion of the US 281 roadway. The objectives focus excessively on roadway-based improvements by using language such as: 1) "provide additional capacity . . . . "; 2) "increase travel speeds . . . . "; and 3) "maintain and/improve access to adjacent land uses . . . . . " These elements should be removed so as to not rule out consideration of non-roadway based improvements. There are many ways to reduce congestion on US 281 that do not involve expanding the roadway or increasing travel speeds, yet the current language in the objectives would seem to favor a roadway expansion on US 281 above anything else.

Maintaining or improving access to adjacent land uses, as one of the suggested objectives states, is especially problematic because it will force the selection of alternatives with continuous frontage roads and exclude reasonable alternatives. Buying access rights, for example, is routinely done by transportation agencies across the country to manage access, reduce congestion, and improve safety without building continuous frontage roads. Yet the Alamo RMA's objective of maintaining or improving access to adjacent land uses would necessitate continuous frontage roads (which are environmentally destructive and which research has shown to be associated with several adverse socioeconomic effects). This element should be removed.

# Necessity of Considering Peak Travel Demand Strategies in Combination with other Alternatives

In developing reasonable alternatives, it is essential to keep in mind that NEPA requires agencies to consider combinations of alternatives rather than just various measures in isolation. In one of the cases cited above, the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit found a NEPA study deficient for reasons that included the following: "The EA/4(f) rejected these options because, standing alone, they would not meet the purpose and need of the Project. However, no effort was made to consider TSM and mass transit together and/or in conjunction with alternative road expansion as a means of meeting Project goals. This represents one of the most egregious shortfalls of the EA." Davis v. Mineta, 302 F.3d 1104, 1121-22.

As required by NEPA, we hope that the list of preliminary alternatives presented at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be considered in combination. For example, a project incorporating 1) Transportation System Management (TSM) & Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures, 2) mass transit, 3) strategic grade separations, with limited roadway expansion to accommodate exits and entrances, and 4) purchase of access rights, could do a lot to address

480 173

congestion on US 281 if not reduce it entirely. By considering these options in combination with other alternatives, an expensive multi-lane expansion on US 281 could be minimized and possibly avoided altogether.

Because multi-lane roadway expansions will certainly induce additional traffic and growth along US 281, thereby aggravating congestion, we recommend that <u>TSM/TDM measures</u>, <u>HOV lanes</u>, and mass transit should be a part of any preferred project for US 281. In the long-run, managing and reducing peak travel demand will be the only way to achieve an economically and environmentally sustainable transportation solution for US 281.

In addition to the TSM and TDM measures mentioned in the preliminary alternatives, we would also strongly recommend consideration of <u>reversible lanes</u>, which has been shown to be an effective method of managing peak travel demand in other cities. Reversible lanes are not mentioned in the preliminary alternatives and they should be a part of the development of reasonable alternatives.

# **Cooperating Agencies**

From the materials handed out at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, it is still unclear as to who the cooperating agencies are for the US 281 EIS process. The materials only have a catch-all category of participating/cooperating agencies.

We would again urge the lead agencies in this EIS process to work as closely as possible with the Edwards Aquifer Authority, the U.S. Army at Camp Bullis, and VIA such that these agencies are designated both cooperating and participating. As explained in our previous comments, these agencies have special expertise that requires their involvement as cooperating agencies in this EIS process in order to comply with NEPA.

Thank you for your consideration.

anne 132 seas

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace Executive Director

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

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**Comments submitted via Fax** 





### COMMENT CARD

US 281 Environmental Impact Statement
Public Scoping Meeting #2 - November 17, 2009
Spring Hill Event Center

Please let us know your thoughts about the pre flawed and being recommended for elimination alternatives below.	liminary alternatives that are considered "fatally  . Please check "agree" or "disagree" for the	
Heavy Rail		
Commuter Rail	DK Agree □ Disagree	
Monorali	Agree ☐ Disagree	
Automated Guideway Transit	EV. A.	
Personal Rapid Transit	LKAgree ☐ Disagree  □ Disagree ☐ Disagree	
New Parallel Corridor	Disagree ☐ Disagree	
Upgrade Existing US 281 no/th of Loop 1604 to an Expressway (with frontage roads)  US 281 at Donella Drive	suggestions. Do the preliminary alternatives considered? Do the objectives define the type alternatives that have been carried forward more detail? Are there any other items you wo ard? (Please use additional sheets if needed.)  ASAP WITH WOUTH #	pe of
SOUTH BLOVATED RAN WEST STOP THE	DELAYS!	6
Name: 7DM RBS W		
Address: 26015 DE37My MDGE	ty State Zin San Andonio, 72 782	رن ک
Email: TOM. ROSCO & VAHOO		

Written comments should be sent to Leroy Alloway, Director, Community Development, Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, 1222 N. Main Avenue, Ste 1000, San Antonio, Texas 78212; you may also submit comments to the Alamo RMA by fax to 210-495-5403 or e-mail <a href="US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org">US281EIS@AlamoRMA.org</a>. All written comments received or postmarked by Monday, November 30, 2009, will be in the Public Scoping Meeting #2 official record and considered by the US 281 EIS team. Comments received after the deadline will become part of the record for next public meeting.

FROM : ZAPATA

281 E[5 7:le

FAX the 2

Nov. 12 2009 10:20PM P1

November 12, 2009

Alamo Regional Mobility Authority 1222 N. Main Ave, Suite 1000 San Antonio, Tx. 78212

Dear Sirs:

I was very disappointed to read in the newspaper about the outcome of the last meeting regarding the changes concerning the 28% Expressway. It seems to me the Board members decided upon themselves to vote in favor the a Toll Road in spite of the oppinion of the people attending the meeting. I hope it was not for financial or political reasons that it was done.

I disagree very strongly about the building of a Toll Road that in my oppinion is not going to solve the traffic congestion at all and is going to benefit a small group of people including Governor Perry, which seems to be very much in favor of it.

In my previous letter to you I recommended the elimination of the traffice lights located north of 1604 and the building of overpasses at the intersections, just like we have them on the south side of 1604.

It was a big mistake when somebody decided to install traffic lights (3) on a wide road, where a large amount of cars travel every day at a high speed (between 60 and 70 miles per hour) and have to come all of a sudden to a complete stop, because of the lights.

I hope you listen to the public's opinion. I believe the public should vote on this issue. Otherwise, I wish you a lot of luck.

Jose L. Fernandez M.D.

**Comments submitted via USPS Mail** 

of think way too much money was spent on all miterial handed och today (pages + pages!) of furthermore, the objectives didn't seem to "jine" with the purposes, most of table, selt they were in isolation or rather, segarated from the main juste", "not to Tall."

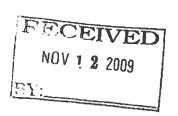
"tall" or "not to Tall." The commissioners, those on the Transported committee, take time to have these meetings, but committee, take time to have the people relay then they don't head the will of the people strong with their original obvious simply go along with their original of the people simply go along with Tall roads, the majority of the people goal to construct Tall Roads.

28/EIS Nov- 9, 2009 USPS #84

Ref: Nov. 17, 2009 Meeting.

Wear Leroy,
My wife and I would be infavor of any solution
except To// ROADS.

Thank you,
Mike and Bev Gebhart
20803 Wind Springs
S. A. , TX 78258



Comments submitted via Project Website	

# USPM#2 Web Comments

COMMENTS  NOTHITH TOIL Roads Adequate SOUND Barriers  Heavy traffic along 281 north of 1604 is enough reason to not shop in that area. I really enjoy the amenities provided, but it's almost not worth the hassle of sitting in traffic. I propose that overpasses only would help the low of traffic tremendously but only temporarilly. Growth in the area is	to the problem.  I strongly believe any form of toll collection will have a serious negative impact on the environment and auslity of life for all citizens of northern San Antonio. I strongly oppose any form of toll collection system	on US281.	My wife and I oppose any proprosed toil road plans for the 281 corridor. We will support any and all efforts to stop placement of a toil road. We will support grass roots efforts to promote protest and resistance to the toil road concept. The toil road is a bad idea and if developed we plan to sell our home and business and move to another city. Respectfully, Tom and Maila Goodro	We need to increase the lanes of traffic for 281 and they should be paid for by the gas taxes we already pay. Public transportation will not work because the majority of those traveling on 281 do not go near where public transportation covers us. We can expand the road without impacting water, polution or anything else. Those pushing for public transportation do not understand the negatives of buses or various train approaches. These options do not make sense in reducing raffic or in real reductions in polution! Stop founding on public transportation and work to get the road expanded, now! We don't want toll roads, we want the TXDOT to provide funds that they collect from us every day with our gas taxes! Stop the other proposals now!	Thank you for the information you have provided to keep the residents in the community affected by the 281 challenges. I racleved the large colorful newsletter, "The 4-1-1 on 281," and found it very beneficial. I look forward to attending future meetings and receiving updated newsletters. R. Rodríguez
EMAIL 78258 cheatham1@att.net	78258 hollie.hall09@gmail.com	78258 b.hartwig@sbcglobal.net	78260 nmgconsultants@earthlink.net	78258 gwdodson@tx.rr.com	78259-2253 rrodrigue±1999@satx.rr.com
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STATE	ř	Ħ	*	¥	8
CITY San Antonio	San Antonio	San Antonio	San Antonio	San Antonio	san antonio
MAILING_ADDRESS 20826 Wild Springs Drive	1703 N Loop 1604 W	935 Cheyenne Creek	25603 Velvet Rose	20614 Stone Oak, Apt 2712	3943 Canyon Pkwy
LNAME	Hel	Hartwig	Goodro	Dodson	Rodriguez
FNAME	Hollie	Bruce	Thomas	90 20 0 90 90	oc

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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

How did you hear about tonight's meeting? (check all that apply)

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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

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Thank you!



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Public involvement is key to the success of the US 281 Environmental Impact Statement. Your feedback will help us better meet your needs as we move forward. Please take a few minutes to complete this meeting evaluation form.

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Thank you!



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**APPENDIX G Court Reporter Transcript of Verbal Comments** 

	US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt
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5	2ND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR U.S. 281
6	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
7	
8	
9	NOVEMBER 17, 2009
10	
11	
12	SPRING HILL EVENT CENTER
13	2455 Celebration Drive
14	San Antonio, Texas 78261
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Page 1

	USZ8I PMZ - Court R	leporter Comments.txt
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3		
4	ORAL COMMENTS GIVEN BY:	PAM FARRIS
5		RUSSELL SEGUIN
6		
7	PRESENTATION GIVEN BY:	JIMMY ROBERTSON
8		MICHAEL SEXTON
9		
10	SMALL-GROUP WORK SESSION	INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY:
11		LINDA XIMENES
12		
13	COMMENTS GIVEN BY SMALL-	GROUP REPRESENTATIVES
14		
15	ORAL COMMENTS GIVEN BY:	JOHN TEDOR
16		BYRON JUEN
17		HAL FIESELER
18		RUSSELL SEGUIN
19		DON DIXON
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
		3
	Comment #123	3
1		ARRIS: Okay. Basically, I don't
2		ve toll roads, especially at this
3		Our country is already in such a
4	recession, and it rooks	like they're trying to bankrupt the

Page 2

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt whole United States. And with people unemployed, if we're going to go into a depression or whatever is going to happen, people certainly cannot afford toll roads.

We had the money. The taxpayers have given the money to expand 281, as well as 1604, but it's because of government corruption, nonresponsibility of -- you know, irresponsible fiscal use of the money. You know, waste -- government waste. You know, corruption is the only -- you know, that's the reason that we don't have the money, is because the people who are supposed to be watching over and taking care of that money spent it on other things. And so we've got the money. So whoever spent it, pay it back to the taxpayers and use their own millions of dollars since they've spent ours.

But we cannot afford to have any kind of toll roads. We need to expand 281, but we certainly don't need any 20-lane road. Give me a break. You know, how asinine is that? I think whenever you get into government, some way you lose all common sense and everything is only on me, me, and how can I get some money and how can this benefit me. But, you know, they're supposed to be working for the taxpayers

that pay their salaries, and we paid the money for the expansion of roads.

We certainly do not need 20 lanes and we do not need a toll -- toll roads. We've already paid for it. Put the money where it's supposed to be used for and you wouldn't have these problems.

## US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt

#### Comment #124

MR. RUSSELL SEGUIN: What we want done on 281 is for the overpasses to be put in what we have paid for.

Myself, my family, my friends that live in this area, have not paid taxes for last 25, 30 years to have a toll road put in.

I'd like to know how is it possible that Comal County finds the resources to put their overpass in at 1863 and 281 ten years ago? Maybe our politicians in Bexar County should call the officials in Comal County and find out how they did it because, apparently, they have knowledge and information

Page 4

11	US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt resources that we, in Bexar County, do not have.
12	Also, we're being told that there is just not enough
13	money to fix all the roads the way they need to be when, I
14	think, it's a matter of prioritizing. It appears that TXDOT
15	has chosen to spread the money out to areas that really
16	don't need attention right now as in 37 and Military Highway
17	where they're redoing the interchange. That could have been
18	put off until 281, for example, is finished.
19	We want the overpasses that we paid for, nothing else.
20	Thank you.
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
	6
1	wa ======
1	MS. TERRY CARTEL: My name is Terry Cartel,
2	and I'm the Executive Director of the Alamo Regional
3	Mobility Authority, and we are the entity that's responsible
4	for working with the Texas Department of Transportation,
5	Federal Highway Administration, in preparing this
	-

And first and foremost, I want to thank each of you for taking time out of your busy evening. We all have a lot of commitments, I know, in our daily lives and our evenings are precious to us. And I also know that this community has spent a lot of time on this topic and have attended a number of meetings related to 281.

I hope you find that tonight's meeting and the format, in

Page 5

Environmental Impact Statement for Highway 281.

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt particular, provides an opportunity for you to be more engaged with a range of alternatives that are being considered as a part of this study process. And with that, again, welcome and I will turn it over to our team that's going to be working with you this evening. Thank you. MR. JIMMY ROBERTSON: Thanks a lot. Terry. Hi, everybody. My name is Jimmy Robertson. I work for Jacobs and I am the project manager for the 281 Environmental Impact Statement project. I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight. We have sort of an unusual meeting format. Many of you

have been coming to 281 meetings, I suspect, maybe for years now. Who has ever been to a 281 meeting before? (Hands raised) That's a lot of us. Tonight, though, we're going to do something a little bit different, a little more engaging.

And what we'd like to do is, after a short presentation, kind of have a conversation. We want -- we want -- we want to have a dialogue. Linda Ximenes, our public involvement lead, is going to talk with you a little bit about the small-group work sessions. I really encourage you-all to stick around after the presentation. We should be done by around 7:00 o'clock and then we're going to get into these small-group work sessions, do a couple of exercises. We're going to ask you-all to talk among yourselves. And then, after that, we'll report out to the group kind of what you-all talked about.

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US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt So it's a little different than maybe what we've been doing in the past and we hope it'll be useful to you and useful to us. Certainly, to us because what we're doing tonight is called scoping. We're in the scoping part of the EIS process, and what that means is we're literally trying to identify all of the key issues, the project lead and purpose, the alternatives for solutions to the problems we have on U.S. 281. And it's important that, as we go through this -- this process, that we spend a lot of time talking

with you-all. So we -- we've already had one -- See if I can get this. Talking about the importance of community engagement in the scoping process.

We've had one public scoping meeting already that was back in August. And did anybody come to that meeting who is here tonight? (Hands raised) Great. Some of you may recognize some of the exhibits. We brought those forward again for folks that are coming for the first time. So we've also had two community advisory committee meetings. Who, here, is from the community advisory committee for U.S. 281? Could you raise your hands? (Hands raised) Thank you all very much for coming.

These folks are meeting on a regular basis to work more closely with our team in identifying key issues, helping us solve -- work through the problems and come up with some solutions for 281. We have been able to learn from the last several months of working with the agencies in the community about what's important to this project. And we've identified some needs and some purposes.

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If you've gone around the exhibits tonight, you've seen
some of the work that we've been able to pull together
regarding quality of life, regarding functionality, safety
and growth issues. And from those needs, we've been able to
identify several major purposes of the project, and those
are to address growth, improve safety, improve functionality

and enhance quality of life. Those are pretty general statements. And so we have spent some time going to the community advisors, to the agencies, reviewing the record, and we've come up with about sixteen objectives that are a little more specific. They're still not super specific, but they're a little more descriptive of what we would look for for any alternative that would be advanced.

So tonight we're asking you several questions. One of the questions is, do we have these objectives down or are there other objectives or how would we change these objectives that we've identified? Another one of the questions is what about the range of alternatives that have been identified? The alternatives evaluation process that we're going through right now. We also have some recommendations for you about what alternatives to eliminate from further consideration and which alternatives to carry forward for further evaluation.

Where we're leading with all this is by January or February of next year we will have conducted additional screening of alternatives and be coming back out to the community advisors, to the agencies that are working with us and to the public in a meeting like this to recommend a set

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of reasonable alternatives that will be carried forward for
detailed evaluation in the draft EIS. So that's kind of
what we're up to tonight.

Again, thank you so much for coming out on a cold night in San Antonio. I'm going to ask Michael Sexton now to come up and talk with you a little bit about the alternatives development process. Michael is our corridor planning engineer.

MR. MICHAEL SEXTON: Thank you. Can everybody hear me? Okay. I'm just going to go without that because I couldn't do it, and I apologize. I'm going to be moving very quickly, but I recognize that as comfortable as these seats are, you'd just as sooon get up. So we're going to take a whirlwind tour through the alternatives analysis, if I can get it to work.

All right. The alternatives analysis that we're going through is much like if you go gem mining. You get some dirt out of the ground, hopefully, it's got some gems in it. You run it through the first course sieve and you get the biggest rocks out. And that's what we're doing up here at the top where we are.

We have a large number of alternatives that we worked together with you in the meeting in August and we're doing a preliminary analysis. We're going to refine things a little bit in the second level and go to a much more detailed analysis in the third level and the final alternatives or packages of alternatives will be carried forward in the EIS. So the level of analysis increases as we move down through

the process, but your involvement is a constant. We are very interested. And tonight we're not coming out telling you what we found, we're coming out with what we think are some reasonable recommendations and looking for your input.

Level one, the analysis that we have just completed, leads us to some recommendations based on whether we're compatible with regional plans based on whether the technology is proven somewhere in the United States and, of course, if there are serious adverse impacts associated with some of these solutions.

We'll be coming back with level two and level three, and we heard about the concern that the community has that was illustrated a couple of weeks ago at the `MTL meeting that was held out here and we are going to look at highway alternatives as both a toll and nontoll solution so that you can see what the differences are in terms of some of the other criteria that we'll be measuring in the EIS. Also, again, public comment is key. We're very interested in everything that you have to say and -- and think during the process.

Now, let's move very quickly into the preliminary alternatives. We had 21 alternatives after the August meeting. We begin with the no-build alternative and we use a number of transit alternatives, both of a fixed guideway or a rail solution, as well as a nonguide way solution such

as you have in the corridor today. Then, we also have
highway improvements and we have other types of improvements
that don't involve either necessarily directly highway or
transit. Let's move in very quickly.

The no-build alternative is our baseline. Everything that we do or consider doing in the corridor, we want to measure against this. So there are some things that are going to be built in the next couple of years such as the smart street improvement -- super street, I'm sorry -- and the improvements to the 1604-281 interchange. Because those are a short-term solution that we know is going to happen, we're incorporating them in no-build. To not do so would be to overstate the amount of need that we have in the corridor and it would be biased in the alternative.

Additionally, the MPO has a long-range 2035 plan that has a number of improvements. We're incorporating all of this improvement except any improvements that would be in the study area; that is, from 1604 north eight miles. We're taking any improvements that might be in the MPO plan out so that we have that no-build condition. And then as we look at different improvements and strategies, we can see how they adjust or how they change factors such as travel time and other criteria that we'll be using.

All right. Transit alternatives. There's a heavy rail alternative that's used in San Francisco, Atlanta and

Washington, D.C. and a number of other areas. Great system
if you've ever been on it, but we are recommending that it
not be continued because San Antonio is not considering this
Page 11

technology within the larger community and we want this study area to be incorporated into the rest of the area. So you can make a trip beginning here and going someplace else.

Commuter rail is another popular solution. It's used in places like Dallas and it relies on freight rail lines. Lot of people use it in the city that it's used in, but we're, again, recommending that it not be carried forward because, number one, you don't have a freight rail line out in this corridor. And number two, they're not planning on the rest of the 281 corridor to put this in place. So, again, it would be an eight-mile solution within a 20- or 30-mile universe and probably not a cost-effective solution as a result.

Next, we have monorail. Monorail is a futuristic-looking alternative. It's employed in Seattle and Las Vegas. Works well in those cities, but we are not, again, recommending it here in this corridor because the rest of the community is not going to use monorail. And we've been working very closely with VIA during this process in order to make sure that we were on the same page that they were. And they do, in fact, agree with us that this is not a solution that would make sense at this time.

Automated guideway transit is another option. You've seen it any time you go to a major airport and it's a great technology, but it's a short-distance technology and because of its relatively low speed and short distance that it serves, we don't think that it's a good solution here in the corridor.

Next up, personal rapid transit. This is a futuristic technology. In 20 years we may see this dominating a number of cities, but today, there's only one place that it's located and that's in West Virginia University and it's only in a single short linear corridor. We don't think that we need to experiment with your needs for transportation in a very congested corridor and, as a result, we're recommending that we not carry this technology forward.

Well, sounds pretty negative if you ask me. Can't we say something positive in here? Well, yes, we can. Light rail transit is in 32 different cities around the country. It's very popular in Portland, Oregon, San Diego, Utah -- Salt Lake City, Utah, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston. All very popular. We're recommending that it be carried forward.

Right on its heels is another technology called street car or sometimes modern street car. It's making its appearance. Again, it started in Portland, Oregon, and we also see these are technologies that VIA is considering in the rest of the corridor and so we're carrying them forward.

Another option is bus. We start out with the tried and true fixed route bus such as you have down on Sonterra today and we recommend that that continue forward. We're also looking at express bus. This might operate within the corridor. It might make five, six stops within the study area and then travel closed door down 281 or across 1604 to another major activity center where it would open its doors and have five or six stops so that it gets you from Point A to Point B relatively fast. And we're recommending that Page 13

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt this be carried forward.

Bus rapid transit is something that VIA is looking at in the Fredericksburg corridor and it is something that the federal government is very, very positive on. They see this as the wave of the future. It's, essentially, a futuristic-looking bus that moves through signals very quickly and has all kinds of advantages such as faster loading and unloading, reduced-fair collection systems so that it's very, very useful. And we're recommending that this be carried forward.

Now let's take a look at some of the highway alternatives. First thing, if we've got congestion on 281 today, why don't we just add a couple more lanes out on 281 by itself? You know, if we've got this kind of congestion, let's just add another lane right over here and see what happens. And that's an alternative. We're going to look at that. We're

also going to look at grade separated interchanges.

Now, this is Wurzbach. And what we've done -- or what someone has done is they have built an overpass across a congested intersection, reducing the number of conflicts so that traffic can flow smoother. And you'll notice this on ramp right here has a driveway connected into it. This is the simplest solution where, rather than building a whole set of additional facilities to take this traffic off, we just make the minor change -- well, not minor, but we make a change at the intersection to reduce the conflicts and we still have the conflicts at certain driveways. It's not the most desirable solution, but it's probably better than what Page 14

13	you have today.
14	SPEAKER: Doesn't that Is that like at the
15	airport? Is that what's called a grade separated
16	intersection at the airport?
17	MR. MICHAEL SEXTON: Well, that's a whole
18	directional separated interchange. You don't see any of
19	those fly-over ramps here. This is the simplest step up

from what you have. That's a good question, though. 20 21 another thing we could do, if we got too much congestion on 22 281, is we can try and get traffic off of 281, put it on

23 parallel corridors.

> Now, obviously, the two parallel corridors that we have today are Blanco and Bulverde and today, largely, they're

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1 two-lane roads, get over capacity at different times during 2 the day, but there are plans in the 2035 plan to make them 3 four or possibly, even in some sections, six lanes wide. And all we propose to do is add onto that. 4

> And one thing I would like to state, just for clarification, is there's some concern that if -- and I use the word if -- you were to toll 281, you wouldn't be allowed to make these improvements that are already planned in the long-range plan. But the reality of the matter is that because these are in the long-range plan, they're grandfathered in and if someone were to decide to do a toll on 281, these would be eligible to move ahead regardless.

Another consideration is let's just build a whole new corridor. Unfortunately, as you look through this area, this is 281 and this is Bulverde and here is Blanco over Page 15

here. You can see there really isn't a place that we could get through without being a bull in a china shop. As a result, we're recommendeding that we not carry this forward because there are just too many impacts otherwise.

Now, another thing we could do is we could upgrade 281 to what we would call an expressway. Here is 281 south of 1604 in the what I call the Grand Canyon section and you have --here is what you have today. You have streets that connect to cross streets and connect to driveways and businesses and then you have the expressway down in the canyon itself so

that traffic can move through it. If you're long-distance traffic, you get down here; if you're short-distance traffic, you stay up here. And this is what we're talking about with functionality. We're trying to provide for both movements at the same time.

Another variation of that is found in Tampa, Florida. And here, what they've done is they've actually created a directional three-lane expressway that's built above the existing facility. And this is a cut-away section. You don't need a hot air balloon or an elevator to get up to that particular area. But -- Yes, sir.

SPEAKER: We kind of did the same thing on I-10. It's going to town. There's an elevated section that does something similar.

MR. MICHAEL SEXTON: Yes. Yes. Exactly.

Good point. Thank you. All right. And we're recommending all of these get carried forward.

Another consideration not done in San Antonio, but Page 16

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certainly done in Dallas and Houston and other parts of the country, is an HOV lane. An HOV lane is something that's becoming more popular now. HOV lanes came out. They move more people per hour than a common freeway lane, but the problem is those of you that don't -- aren't eligible to ride in those HOV lanes, you look across and you see empty pavement. You say, 'What a waste. Look at all these cars

that are stacked up in my lanes. Why shouldn't we be allowed to move over in those other lanes?'.

Well, the government has given consideration to that and what they've done is they've started renting out that blank space of pavement. And if you are driving in a vehicle that doesn't have enough people in it to qualify as an HOV, whether that's a carpool, van pool or a bus, they allow you to jump over in that lane and pay a toll to use that free of congestion.

Now, if you choose to use that, obviously, you pay for it. The people that you leave behind in the other lanes actually get a benefit because you're not there anymore. And so their traffic congestion goes down a little bit, your traffic congestion goes down a lot and, again, you have the choice: You can stay in the lane or you can go over. And, again, you don't take an existing lane to do any of these things. You have to create a new lane to do that. And, again, we're suggesting that this be carried forward.

Finally, we come to some other alternatives on 281. In the Mobility 2035 plan, and as described back in the board back there, there's plans to do growth management.

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# US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt Essentially, to say, okay, 1604 will allow development after

2015. We'll allow development to continue in there, but in

the rest of the county, we're going to stop. We're not

25 going to encourage any more development. And what that does

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is it tends to reduce the length of travel that you have to make to get from home to work and it just makes more efficient use of the system, makes transit more desirable and more efficient. And this is part of the 2035 plan.

Another consideration would be bike and pedestrian facilities. You might say, well, you know, if we go out in the corridor, we can't solve the problems with bikes or pedestrians facilities. And you're probably right, but what we can do is we can improve the quality of life and we can serve some percentage of the traffic in the corridor relatively easy by putting in these facilities. So maybe they aren't stand-alone facilities, but as part of a package, they form a comprehensive solution. And coupled with some of the other alternatives, they get us to where we need to go. And transportation system management merely says, let's make more efficient use of what we have. The super street is a good example of something here, improved intersection of signal operation.

Other things that we might consider is encouraging ride sharing and instant management system such as Guide Star has in much of the rest of the corridor. Doesn't cost much, can be put in quickly and easily and is part of the solution.

Now, finally, travel management. This is transportation system management on steroids. Here, instead of just Page 18

that would be more efficient, in some parts of the country, they use travel demand management to force people to do things that is more efficient use of the system. They may go in and say all employers over 500 people have to have their people arrive at staggered periods and alternate work schedules, things of that nature.

So, in summary, there were six alternatives that we recommended for deletion: Heavy rail, commuter rail, monorail, automated guideway, personal rapid transit and a new parallel highway corridor. We are still carrying forward fifteen alternatives. The no-build, of course, will always be in there and then the other alternatives that I've discussed previously.

Now, at this time, I'd like to call on Linda and Linda is going to tell you how much fun you can have.

MS. LINDA XIMENES: Hi, everybody. You have an agenda that looks like this and on the back side it has something that says "A small group work set." That's what I'm going to talk to you a little bit about right now. You also have a yellow sheet that has a number up in the corner. The yellow paper says part one and on the corner, up on the right-hand corner of that yellow sheet there's a number. You find it? That number is the table that we're asking you to sit at. You've been randomly divided up into these tables and we had started with a lot more tables, but we

have fewer people than what we had anticipated, so we're going to ask some of you who are assigned to higher-number tables to move into a lower-numbered table, but I'll get to that in just a second.

At your table, there'll be a facilitator who will work with you to help you to move through the tasks that we're asking you to do in the next hour or so because we're going to work in small groups for about an hour and then come back together and each group will report from their group kind of what they talked about so that you can hear what was discussed in the other groups.

Everybody's going to have the same questions, everybody's going to have the same worksheets, but because there are different people in the different groups, you'll have little bit different discussions. There might be some things that get emphasized in one that don't in another. And so that's why we do the report afterwards.

So after you work in your small group, there'll be -- in your small group, the facilitator will ask you to identify a recorder. Somebody who's going to write down notes on a worksheet that we have that we'll give you and you'll have -- you'll work on this yellow sheet first, which is part one. It looks at the purpose and -- the need and purpose and the objectives. There will be things that Jimmy and -- and Michael went over with you just a few minutes ago

in the presentation and you'll work on that worksheet with Page 20

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your facilitator and then you'll have a conversation about
that just to talk a little bit about what your thoughts were
about the different purposes, your needs and purpose and the
worksheet itself.
Then we'll have a second part, part two, that will ask

Then we'll have a second part, part two, that will ask you to look at all the different alternatives that Michael just went through. That's listed -- That's a white worksheet. That's a big sheet of paper. It's this one that looks like this. It's a big sheet. Looks like this. Your facilitator will go over that with you in the small groups. It's also part of your packet. There's a worksheet there. That second worksheet. Then you'll work that also with your facilitator and then you'll have a conversation about that worksheet, as well.

So you'll have an opportunity to talk about the needs and purpose and how those objectives relate to that and then you'll also have an opportunity to talk about and look at how the alternatives -- these different alternatives that were presented right now that are being carried forward, how those relate to the purposes of the -- of the study or the improvements, rather. So we'll ask you to do that.

You'll have about an hour to do that in and then we're going to ask -- at the end of your conversation, we're going to ask one of you-all from your group to volunteer to be a

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recorder to talk about this, the highlights of your
conversation; not to give a detailed, you know, blow-by-blow
thing, but just a one-minute synopsis or summary of the
conversations that you-all had in your small groups. Are
Page 21

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt there any questions about the process? I mean, your 5 6 facilitator will go over all this with you, as well, in just 7 a minute. Okay. No questions? 8 The tables that we're going to be using are back here in 9 the back. The ones right straight back here are numbered 1 10 through 10. And then, if you go through these doors right 11 over here, there's a table -- I'm sorry, 1 through 9 is over here and if you go through this door, table 10 is right over 12 here. If you have a number higher than 10, 11 or higher, if 13 14 you will just go to whichever these ten tables set, where 15 people are at, if you will just sit at one of those tables, 16 as long as it's not a full table. Okay? We wanted to do 17 this randomly, so this is just another way of doing it 18 randomly. Okay? And let me just introduce your -- in table 1, Sonia 19 20 Jimenez will be your facilitator. At table 2, it'll be 21 Tricia Bruck; at table 3, it'll be Leigh-Ann Fabianke; table 22 4 is Bethany Feinstein; table 5 is Laura Christ; table 6 is 23 Lori Ivy; table 7 is Jeff Casbeer; table 8 is Krista 24 McDermid; table 9 is Larry Allen and table 10 is Brett 25 Altman. So those are the facilitators. They'll introduce

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themselves when they sit down to the table and you'll have
about an hour to work. So if you would go to your table
now. The restrooms are back here to the back on your left
if you need to do that either before or after.
(Small-group discussions)
MS. LINDA XIMENES: We will now ask you to
stop to report. What I'm going to do is ask you to do a
Page 22

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt one-minute summary of what your conversation was about. 8 9 Okay? You can choose anything that was good on the recorder 10 sheet. I'm going to ask you to stop and then only the 11 groups that have something different to report, then we'll 12 ask you to report what the conversation was in your group. 13 I'm going to start with group 1. 14 SPEAKER: The three most interesting things 15 our small group said was there's been too much delay and too much indecision on 281. There's too many options in these 16 17

plans and there's -- we're not happy with the continued diversions on gas tax. It needs to stop. We had a range of opinions. Or did.

What was our range of opinions? We really didn't have a range of opinion or wide range of opinion. We pretty much agreed on a nontoll freeway. And we agreed on one thing, change 1604 to an expressway, the frontage road and no tolls. We should have a plan with reasonable costs and then -- reasonable cost and minimal time.

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2	SPEAKER: My name is Demi, group number 4,
3	and the three most interesting things that $\ensuremath{my}$ group talked
4	about were maximizing state and federal monies and other
5	nontoll resources, and I think we're with Group No. 1 over
6	here, with the emphasis on nontoll resources. Important
7	advantages, if any: Reducing traffic time and adding
8	additional capacity to accommodate the growth, reducing
9	travel times, improving access to adjacent roads and cross

MS. LINDA XIMENES: Group 4.

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streets, reducing the conflict between local access and --

11	US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt you know, for just for safety reasons and the main
12	highway, you know, the local access roads. And reducing
13	crash rates.
14	And, also, we did talk a little bit about diverting gas
15	gasoline tax money to other projects instead of keeping
16	what it's supposed to be for, kind of like Social Security
17	in that.
18	MS. LINDA XIMENES: Group No. 9.
19	SPEAKER: My name's Julie Klein. We
20	discussed some of the same things that the other groups
21	have, but there was also a lot of talk about the whole
22	process has been very long and drawn out. And one of the
23	concerns that also came up was that if we really do
24	drastically expand 281 north of 1604, what happens to 281
25	when you go into town? Is it just going to bottleneck

there? You may stop a problem maybe going on at the northern end, but then at the southern end, you have a big problem 'cause there's nowhere to go.

And that there was a lot of feeling from the group that the -- particularly the first form. It was very difficult to manuever and really know how to honestly answer and understand issues.

SPEAKER: My name's Miley LaRouse and three most interesting things people said was why are we still considering light rail street cars? We already shot this down several times. And the current plans -- regional plans don't necessarily address all solutions so when -- that was in the objectives. It was also mentioned that possible

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt public-private partnerships are to be part of those plans. So that's not satisfactory. They're illegal. And I forget what number three was. I guess there wasn't anything interesting. We had a range of opinions on everything. Some of us were more environmentally oriented and some people wanted bike/ped. Others said we just need to expand 281 north. What did we agree on? Didn't like light rail, street cars, waste of money. Those need to go. Options like transportation management too prescriptive. We agreed that we need to consider cost, obviously, to fund resources. SPEAKER: My name is Carol Herrera. Our

group was very focused on the need to move the most amount of cars down the road in the least amount of time and agreed that eliminating traffic lights would be a good way to do that, but also said this is great, but we have a political problem here because we need to pay for this process. So how are we going to do that. So spent a lot of time discussing how our roads are funded in the first place and we really need to protect our transportation funds. So just recognizing the political issues there.

We were very heavily in favor of expressway options 7 through 10, especially number 10 where, as a group, we were in agreement that we do not want toll roads. We were unanimous in that. And that's pretty much it. Anything else that I missed? And, of course, we care about the environment, too.

SPEAKER: My name is Ann, and the most
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US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt interesting thing that we talked about were quality of life, 17 18 safety and water quality. We thought those were very important. We also thought the bike-walking ped lanes were 19 20 nonproductive and we thought that item 10 was very 21 practical. I don't have it written down, but it was 22 practical. 23 We had a range of opinions on the objectives and which 24 ones should be eliminated. Then we agreed on strongly that adding facilities for cyclists and pedestrians were 25 29 completely out of the question and absolutely not going to 1 2 be used by majority of people and upgrading existing 281 3 north to 1604 to an expressway and also have the frontage 4 road was a great idea. Thanks. 5 SPEAKER: My name is Elena Serna and two of 6 my group members are from California, so we had a really 7 interesting conversation about what they do in California. We also had a great O and A session with Patrick Erwin, 8 who's from the Alamo RMA. Very helpful. 9 10 We had a range of opinions on the importance of environmental protection, what that should look like. Also 11 12 the inevitability of growth. Some of us just thought different things about just, in general, how best to address 13 14 the transportation needs, obviously. But we did agree that something needs to be done, that this is a real problem. 15 16 Obviously, something that's taken a very long time to

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address so a lot of my group members really like number 10.

goal here was voted by all people on the table as the best

SPEAKER: Yes. My name's Lloyd. Number one

US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt was, improve functionality is the biggest goal. And along 20 21 with that, number 2, maximum use of all access lanes and 22 that the HOV lanes and the HOT lanes usually are empty while 23 the free lanes are congested so, therefore, it does not look 24 to those who use the highway as moving the maximum amount of 25 people. In other words, that's not the best improvement of 30 functionality goal there. Number 3, the -- there was no 1 2 lower-cost objectives so that was voted by all people that 3 it should be one of the objectives. In other words, line 5, look at column 4, columns Lower 4 5 Cost, was not an objective, which we think it should be, but 6 so -- and that under objectives, which objectives troubled 7 us, someone mentioned such as mass transit and bike lanes were what one person said silly objectives because most 8 9 people wouldn't use them. Basically, on that, it would be 10 nice to have those options if there was unlimited funds and

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Basically -- so a lot of busy objectives, but not too much focus on real objectives that really get the job done. So I think that pretty much -- pretty much covers everything.

we could probably do everything.

SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is Charles Forrester, group 8, pretty much ditto everything we've already heard, but one of the more interesting things was the surprise at the large number of options that were required to solve what appears to be a simple solution. Why does the process have to be so complicated? We kind of sat down, seemed there was a little bit of motion, maybe

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US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt (inaudible) figured out before it was all over that we were 23 24 more united than we were apart. So we really didn't have 25 anything we disagreed on. We did agree that we'd like to 31 reduce the conflicts between the local access and improved 1 traffic. We don't want tolls. We would like to see 2 3 competitive bidding on any solution, functionality was the most important criteria and we want to do the quickest, most 4 5 cost effective and simplest solution. 6 SPEAKER: Hi. I'm Bob Terrell. I represent 7 table 1 -- 2. The main thing that our table discussed was 8 transporting the most amount of people from Point A to Point 9 B and getting them through the corridor and how we were 10 going to do that; reducing the conflict between the through 11 cross traffic. The tax rate for just this community -- you 12 put in the toll option, obviously, it's going to be another 13 tax. We all know that. To oust people who work in this area, the pizza guy, people in-betweeners, the stock boy at 14 HEB, I can go on and on. There's no way those are going to 15 be able to afford the toll road. We need to expedite this 16 issue. 17 18 I've built a house in 2001 in Encino Park. I've come to every meeting just about. This is ridiculous. We need a 19 20 phase master plan to talk about. We don't have to do it all right now. We can do part now, part later and keep going 21 22 on, but we need a master plan that's modular that you can 23 build on. We need a free option. Right now, we need to

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time the lights to reduce traffic lines. The (inaudible)

need the tax. We need people in office that need to care

about our tax dollars. We spend \$200 million to build the expressway, option ten. I think everybody in here wanted it, but we can't afford \$250 million to build road (inaudible) all our (inaudible) doesn't make any sense.

The noise -- the noise was an issue of the too many lanes, the safety and time. Another thing, all the time issue is getting more wrecks, more people get killed, it's not being addressed, if we don't hurry this project along.

We did -- A few of us like the elevated option. I think it goes a -- certain times of day, it goes one way; another time of day you flip the traffic around, goes the other way.

Number 12 option was way too broad. We would accept number eight, but we want number ten.

And one more thing. And another thing is bottleneck 1604. If you're going to build 20 lanes over here, you're not going to have any on the other side of 1604. -- doesn't fix it. Aquifer. My biggest concern (inaudible) is the aquifer. And I didn't see anything up here about the aquifer. I was born and raised here in San Antonio. It's our only supply of drinking water and you've got to protect the aquifer. And I don't think building 50 lanes across the top of it is going to help it along. Thanks.

MS. DEMI: I just thought of something that no one here has really addressed. This table did talk about this a little bit and I talked about it with some people in

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#### US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt 1 the very beginning. This would be the only area that really 2 has a toll road. I think it'll affect all our property 3 values. I know that four years ago, if I had known that there would be a toll road, I would not have moved here. 4 So, I mean, that -- that, to me, is a big deal. That we 5 6 would be the only ones that were totally disadvantaged in 7 this area in terms of people buying homes here and that 8 would -- it is -- it's discriminating if that's 9 usually (inaudible) works. 10 And I really -- I just wanted to thank you. I think this 11 was a really great format and I think it was a really 12 wonderful meeting in the way you put it together. The transparency's real important to me and I appreciate that 13 14 you put it together. Like you and Leroy and whoever else. 15 Thank vou. MS. LINDA XIMENES: James Dean with Alamo 16 17 So thank you for that. Let me remind you to please 18 fill out your comment cards and if you haven't given that to 19 your facilitator, give that to your facilitator or put them 20 in a box here. (Inaudible. Everybody talking) MR. JIMMY ROBERTSON: 21 -- putting this

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- stay tuned and check out the EIS pages on the 411 on 281
- 2 website. We're trying to put as much information up there.

together three months or so, so come end of January,

beginning of February, we'll be coming back out for another

meeting with you-all, be another meeting with the community advisors and with the agencies that we're working with. So

3 I appreciate the comment about the transparency. That's a Page 30

## US281 PM2 - Court Reporter Comments.txt lot of what we're trying to establish with our EIS process.

5 So do check EIS pages on the website and thank you. Thank

6 you again for coming out tonight. You-all take it easy.

MS. LINDA XIMENES: On the back side of your comment card, there's an evaluation form. You fill that out also. And we want to recognize Spring Hill Event Center.

10 They donated the refreshments, all of the support.

11 \* \* \* \* \*

12 (Oral comments follow)

#### Comment #125

MR. JOHN TEDOR: I have a little bit of a concern about the format tonight. I think that it was confusing to at least some people. I know that some of the people at our table were very confused by the objectives and purpose. They weren't clear. Nobody really understood how to fill out those forms. The overall format of having some Page 31

group interaction, I think, was good, but the specific forms that we were given were not that useful.

There are too many alternatives and -- and the alternatives did not make clear whether it was a tolled or untolled option. It looks to me like they're trying to stealth the toll option in and there was nobody at our table that wants to see the road tolled. I don't think there was anybody here tonight that wants to see the road tolled for any of numerous reasons. We should have the funds to build the road with overpasses and frontage roads in a nontolled configuration. The money was there. Where did it go? Let's just do it the way it was supposed to be done.

#### Comment #126

MR. BYRON JUEN: I was very concerned with the format of tonight's meeting, especially on the purpose and -- the objectives and the purposes. I found the wording very ambiguous, difficult to understand. You didn't know if you were voting for something that you were against. Excuse me. Voting is not the right word. You didn't know if your opinion was -- if you were judging something that you were against and if you were actually being for it. It was just very difficult to understand the format of tonight's

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10 meeting.

In addition, as it pertains to the MPO 2035 document that's steering this EIS, they didn't mention anything about diminished growth of single-occupancy vehicles. Today, 86,000 cars go over 281, whereas, the toll road would need 200,000 cars a day just to break even.

Another thing I found inconsistent in the documents -- in the working documents here is it is currently illegal in the state of Texas to encourage public-private partnerships. In today's documents and in the MPO 2035, they are encouraging public-private partnerships and, once again, they are illegal.

In addition to that, I would like to know what the Early Action Compact is. I would like to know what is the Texas State Data Center and I would also like to know why is it that ACOG gets to approve population forecasts. I would

also would like to see our state demographer present at the next EIS meeting. His name is Carl Eschenbach. Thank you.

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## Comment #127

1 MR. HAL FIESELER: My name's Hal Fieseler. I 2 live in the Northwood Hills Subdivision, which is located on 3 the corner of Bulverde and Evans Road. The Bulverde-Evans 4 Project addresses the run-off water from Bulverde and the fact that it is going to be treated before it enters the 5 aguifer. I'm assuming that 281 run-off will also be that 6 7 way. But my concern is in that subdivision, Northwood Hills, 8 9 it is served -- the whole subdivision is serviced by septic 10 tanks. Since '98, those -- a number of those septic tanks have been flooded and, of late, it doesn't take but about 11 12 three inches of rain to go over the lateral lines, over the 13 holding tanks and that water is -- the purification of that water has not been addressed that I know of in any of the 14 15 meetings. I've been to several meetings.

My question would be when and how would that water be treated if it's -- maybe they -- somebody don't even know it's happening, but I can show you where my lateral lines are. It gets innundated every time it floods. I've lived at that house 37 years. I've never had an opportunity or a reason to sump the septic tank, sump out the septic tank, clean out the septic tank, because Mother Nature does it for me on a regular basis. And this putrid water is going downstream and somewhere down there it enters the purified water that comes off of the Bulverde Road Project, 281

project. It all ends up in the aquifer, but nobody wants to address the septic tanks being flooded in the subdivision of Northwood Hills. And that is my concern.

And I would like to have that addressed or be contacted or I would be glad to visit someone or have a representative come out. I'll do a walk-through on my property, show exactly what happens when the flood comes and it comes on a regular basis now. And that's basically what I'd like to say.

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## Comment #128

MR. RUSSELL SEGUIN: First off, I just want to say that, based on what was covered tonight, that the use of my time coming to this event was not worthwhile. Also wanted to go on record that the -- the sheets that were used, the worksheets, much of what was written on and how it was written was confusing and hard to understand what it means to agree or disagree, particularly on the comment card. The -- the proposed and alternative worksheet, much of it was confusing what it actually was being proposed on some of these options.

when it gets down to it, what will fix 90 percent of our problem, at least, is simply putting the overpasses that we have paid for and let's stop this nonsense and just get it done and stop holding us hostage on U.S. 281 north. Thank you.

## Comment #129

MR. DON DIXON: I have quite a few concerns about the process. I believe the -- the process should be a complete open form. In other words, an open forum is where you have the presentation and then the public makes comments where everybody hears the comments at one time. In other words, that's an open forum.

I've been to Williamsburg, Virginia, and they explained in the 1700s how an open forum worked and it worked very well. This was not an open forum. This was, basically, a closed forum. So you don't -- you don't get the reaction with the people present if you're in too small groups. So the process, I don't think, it -- personally, I don't think was a good one.

what the people want and what the people need is what they -- what the people can afford. They already pay their gas tax and the registration fees. These fees should be used for everyone. It should not be discriminated against. If they use these fees and funds in a toll road, it discriminates against a lot of people because a lot of people can't afford to pay extra in addition to their gas tax and registration fees and the other taxes they already pay and on a right-of-way that they have already paid for years and years and years ago. Now they want to convert that right-of-way to a toll road? This is just wrong. We page 37

happen. That is just -- That's, basically, very fraudulent act of the people in power and the politicians to ride over the people because take a right-of-way that they've paid for and then turn it into a toll road? That's just wrong.

What we need is we need to make sure that the culture of San Antonio is not destroyed. This culture is very open, very friendly. We welcome everyone to this community. A toll road would be very, very unfriendly to our tourism business, to our military personnel that -- that are stationed here and our medical-needs people who work and come here for medical services. And now we're going to put toll roads all over San Antonio?

Or have a two-tiered system where the rich can afford to get on a nice road and then people who don't have those means are stuck in traffic or weaving through neighborhoods and hurting the neighborhood streets, causing those costs to go up. This is just not the way to have a good transportation system.

We need roads. We've got our cars, we've got our trucks, but we don't have a road to use them on. We need a freeway out here on 281 and we need overpasses that everybody can use and get it done. These special interests that want these toll roads and people who say that we don't have any money, we're going to have to all work together to get the money to build a freeway that the people want.

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2	COUNTY OF BEXAR )
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4	I, PATRICIA M. GREEN, Certified Shorthand Reporter
5	in and for the State of Texas, hereby certify that I was
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8	IMPACT STATEMENT" on NOVEMBER 17, 2009, and that the
9	foregoing 42 pages of transcription were prepared under my
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